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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

WORLD



The death toll in Syria has exceeded 60,000. **► PAGE 20**

LIFE & STYLE



Patti Page, who made "Tennessee Waltz" a hit, has died. **► PAGE 23**

Top business stories of 2012 show glimmers of hope. **PAGE 2**
Judge sets hearing to reconsider injunction vs PPA. **PAGE 5**

CUC lowers LEAC rate

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has approved a lower power rate for its customers due to a decline in the cost of fuel in the world market.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed yesterday that the leveled energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, will see a reduction of 4.6 percent effective Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

"Due to a decrease in average fuel prices last month, the LEAC will be adjusted effective Jan. 7, 2013," he said.

See CUC on Page 4

Govt report shows financial positives

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Collections in excess of \$288,582 of projected revenues**
» **Fiscal year's net effect a slight surplus of \$56,256**

In his annual financial report to the Legislature, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial presented positive news that he attributes to several cost-cutting measures and more stringent controls over government spending.

In his annual financial report dated Dec. 31, 2012, and submitted to the

See REPORT on Page 4



Fitial

RELAY RACE

Supporters of Get Fit CNMI, a strength and conditioning club on the island, head to the Last Command Post for the finish line in the 31st NMA Christmas Island Relay held last Sunday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police have arrested the two men who allegedly assaulted a teenager who later died after they left him lying on a highway in central Garapan where two vehicles subsequently struck and ran over him.

» **19-year-old dies after being hit by 2 cars**

A source disclosed that police arrested early yesterday morning the two suspects: Herman Fitial, 34, and Felix Kileleman Jr., 19.

Suspects in teen's beating arrested

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong confirmed that police investigation led to the arrest of Fitial and Kileleman.

As of yesterday, the suspects had yet to be taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing.

Tarkong also disclosed new information that the gray van that fled the scene

after hitting the victim could possibly be a gray or black Chevrolet Astro van and not a Toyota Sienna van, as police earlier reported.

Tarkong said the van's driver is still at large, while the van could not be located. He appealed to the public for assistance in identifying the driver and finding the van.



Fitial



Kileleman

Police said the victim, a 19-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center Wednesday at 3:15am. He sustained several deep lacerations on the right side of the head, lacerations on his lower lip, and bruises on the face. He had a fractured femur and pelvis and had internal bleeding.

A source identified the victim as Jeff Kiauol Keju, a resident of As Lito.

Police said that two men chased the victim on Tuesday night and caught him on the outer bound lane of the highway in front of LJ Market.

After assaulting the victim, the two
See SUSPECTS on Page 4

Local

Top business stories of 2012 show glimmers of hope

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was not all gloom and doom in 2012. Despite the persistent weakness of the local economy, the business sector had many glimmers of good news that provided respite from the political turmoil that happened throughout much of 2012. Here is a rundown of the top business stories of 2012:

Arctic Circle Air launches cargo services

The promotion of the CNMI's agricultural commodities and byproducts had been at a standstill for many years until 2012 when Arctic Circle Air Ser-

vices Inc., finally took off, about a year after initial plans about the locally owned cargo airline were announced and \$1.2 million in funding was secured from public and private investors.

The company's Britten-Norman aircraft arrived on Saipan in September. The company secured a warehouse and administrative office space at the airport that were later inspected and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, and had the cargo airline license and headquarters officially transferred from Alaska to the Northern Marianas. The company finally launched its first cargo flight last October.

Less than two months later, Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. began delivering mail as a subcontractor for United Airlines. Due to the high demand for cargo between the CNMI and

Guam, the company is now eyeing an additional aircraft that would open doors to a bigger market for local farmers.

More China and Russia flights arrive

Despite the challenges and difficulties it presented, year 2012 proved to be a good year for the CNMI's tourism industry. The Commonwealth's premier economic engine showed signs of recovery as it welcomed tourists flown by additional charter flights from China Eastern Airlines and AviaCharter DV.

Recognizing the emergence of Chinese travelers as a growing market, tourism officials in the

Northern Marianas emphasized the importance of China Eastern Airlines' thrice-a-week direct flights from Beijing, in addition to the regular charter service from Shanghai and Guangzhou provided by Sichuan Airlines.

AviaCharter DV, meanwhile, will be operating 19 charter flights to the CNMI from October 2012 to March 2013, and island leaders also touted the importance of growing Russian market for their positive contribution to the local economy, given their length of their visit and spending power while on island.

The additional airline seats are a boost to the Commonwealth's economic growth last year following sharp increases in visitor arrivals for the islands' two major tourism markets.

E-Land Group acquires properties

While some businesses have bailed out from the CNMI due to the economic downturn, a South Korean conglomerate has expanded its real estate holdings in the Commonwealth's capital, purchasing stocks and taking ownership of several hotel properties in 2012.

E-Land Group, through its subsidiary E-Land Park, purchased Palms Resort Saipan to the tune of a \$20-million asset sale from former owner United Micronesia Development Association. The sale, which took several months to finalize, included Paupau Terrace, dormitories, and interest in Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply Co. Ltd. UMDA said the new owner also absorbed Palms Resort Saipan's engineering and maintenance staff that take care of the San Roque facility.

In September last year, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced that the real estate firm also became the majority owner of Coral Ocean Point, which was previously owned by Suwaso Corp. The governor said that E-Land Group assured him of their plans to develop the beachfront hotel and golf course property in Achugao.

E-Land Group is also believed to have purchased stocks of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, and has expressed interest in leasing some 34,000 square meters of public land, also in San Antonio, to develop a new hotel resort.

Saipan Grand rebrands as Kanoa Resort

The Year 2012 was a big year for Tan Holdings, a family-owned regional corporation that operates a portfolio of hotels in the Marianas. Besides celebrating 40 years of doing business in the region, the company also saw in June the rebranding of Kanoa Resort Saipan, formerly known as Saipan Grand Hotel, which became a timely venture as the island and the rest of the Commonwealth saw an upsurge in the tourism industry.

Since then, the 224-room beachfront property along Beach Road in Susupe has introduced new facilities and upgraded existing ones to the tune of well over \$1 million in order to give guests a wonderful experience during their stay on the island.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said the rebranding is an indication of their company's continued commitment to the islands, making the CNMI competitive with rival tourist destinations.

Triple J thrives in a down economy

After constructing the first affordable housing project in the CNMI, Sandy Beach Homes, business tycoon Robert "Bob" Jones of Triple J Saipan Inc. is on a roll, with plans to build a second afford-

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Fitial expects OAG to tell SDLLC that deal is void

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration expects the Office of the Attorney General to tell the Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC about the governor's concurrence with the attorney general's opinion that the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement is void and unenforceable.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Fitial administration expects the OAG to communicate Attorney General Joey P.

San Nicolas' legal opinion to Saipan Development LLC that the power purchase agreement is void.

"Now the administration will fully examine the need to address the long-term power needs of the Commonwealth," Demapan added.

He said there is no argument that the current power generation system is costly and is reaching the end of its life expectancy.

"It is still important for the Commonwealth to find alternatives in pursuit of lowering utility costs and attracting new industries to the CNMI," he added.

Demapan disclosed Wednesday

that Fitial now agrees that the power purchase agreement is void and unenforceable in the wake of San Nicolas' opinion on the controversial deal.

In his opinion, San Nicolas said that Fitial is not liable for any cause of action related to his signing of the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC as he merely relied on the certification of then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham that the agreement was proper as to form and capacity.

San Nicolas, however, determined that Fitial did not have the authority, pursuant to Executive Order 2012-17, to enter into the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.



Demapan



San Nicolas

TOP

From Page 2

able project, Blue Water Homes, already underway. Once site is finalized, the \$30-million project would involve the construction of 80 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units that feature "green technology."

Jones, whose company owns several businesses on island such as Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, and Triple J Motors, established

a new firm, Saipan Surfrider, LLC, which plans to develop a new resort hotel at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia and Silver in Chalan Kanoa to address the growing demand on Saipan's tourism industry and as part of efforts to revitalize the former capital of the island. The developer of the \$12.1-million project, set to commence this month, is currently applying for a qualifying certificate with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

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CUC

From Page 1

The new LEAC rate is \$0.29751 per kilowatt-hour, about 4.6 percent less than the current rate.

The average residential account will see a decrease of about \$6.50 per month, Warren said.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

Adjustments in utility rates usually require the review and approval of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission but since CUC remains under a state of emergency, this suspends the

commission's oversight of CUC.

For many customers, the 4.6 percent adjustment is too small for families to feel the impact on their monthly electric bills.

Alex Pillarina, 35, a father of two children, said the small adjustment will result in only about \$3 savings on their usual monthly rate. His family consumes 200 to 220 kilowatts per month and pays an average of \$80 monthly.

Citing the high cost of gas on island, which remains at \$5 per gallon, and the increasing prices of commodities and services, he thinks the CUC adjustment will have no measurable impact on their household costs.

College student Jovan Fred expressed similar sentiments, believing that CUC's rates have been the highest

among neighboring islands. The small adjustment, she said, will not really impact a family like hers that pays an average of \$300 to \$400 per month on their electric bill.

CUC officials earlier disclosed that the number of its power customers continue to decline due to the general economic slowdown being experienced on the island and impact of the new federal immigration system.

Since the federal government took over the labor and immigration system of the Commonwealth, many nonresident workers have left the island while many local residents opted to relocate due to the lack of employment and high utility rates.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC's power client base at present is a little over 14,000.

PATA MEETING

Chris Flynn, Pacific Asia Travel Association International regional director, third from left, pays a visit to Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, fifth from left, expressing PATA's commitment in partnering with Guam and Micronesia in promoting responsible growth of tourism in the region. From left to right: Darin De Leon, Palau Visitors Authority; Guam Visitors Bureau general manager Joann G. Camacho; Flynn; Brenda Alik-Maddison, Marshall Islands Visitors Authority; Calvo; Grant Ismael, Kosrae Visitors Bureau; Judy Torres, Marianas Visitors Authority; Don Evens, Yap Visitors Bureau; and GVB marketing manager Pilar Laguna. The Guam Visitors Bureau hosted the 2012 PATA Micronesia Annual Chapter Meeting last month.

GVB

SUSPECTS

From Page 1

suspects fled on foot, leaving the victim lying on the outer northbound lane of the highway.

Later, a van, first described as a gray Toyota Sienna 2011 or 2012 model, which was traveling north on the outer

lane, struck the victim, dragging him about 50 feet. The van did not stop.

After the van sped away, a Toyota Hilux 4x4 pickup truck later ran over the victim. The driver, a 22-year-old male, stopped and helped the victim.

An ambulance brought the victim to CHC, where he was later pronounced dead.

REPORT

From Page 1

Legislature yesterday, Fitial said that fiscal year 2012's net effect of both revenue and expenditures resulted in a slight surplus of \$56,256 for the fiscal year.

Revenue collections totaled \$102,288,584, about \$288,582 above projected revenues for the fiscal year, he said.

The government's total expenditures, however, exceeded the amount set under the budget law, Public Law 17-55, by \$232,328, for a total expenditure of \$102,232,328. The fiscal year budget was \$102 million.

The budget law requires the governor to submit an annual financial report to the Legislature within 120 days following the end of the fiscal year.

Revenue collection

Fitial said that revenue collection has improved and that they expect it to improve further as each collection point is closely monitored and reviewed to maximize the government's collection efforts.

He said enforcement actions also continue despite the limited funding for the Enforcement Unit at the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"We will take all the necessary steps to continue our progress toward our goal of realizing a thriving economy for all the people of the Commonwealth," he said.

The governor said revenue collections and other financing sources recorded for the year, not including those reserved for debt service and transfers out, totaled \$123,149,909 or \$2.47 million more than projected.

Despite the tough economic climate facing the CNMI, Fitial said the Business Gross Revenue Tax showed a significant increase of \$3,863,515 over projections.

In contrast, wage and salary taxes fell short of projections by \$1,579,929 or \$22,920,07 in overall collections.

Income tax collections for both personal and corporate income taxes also continue to fall short of estimates, with shortfalls of \$2,257,045 and \$534,699 respectively.

Fitial said overall collection of income taxes in the Commonwealth totaled \$81,013,996, with the strong collection of Business Gross Revenue Tax reducing the impact of the shortfalls in this revenue category.

The Commonwealth's excise tax exceeded projections by 14 percent and collected \$19,153,517. "This re-

sulted in a surplus over projections of \$2,353,517," the governor said.

Favorable collection activities also occurred in the Liquid Fuel Tax, Beverage Container and Other Tax categories, which resulted in a surplus in overall tax collection of \$3,567,997.

Licenses and fees collected totaled \$6,683,482.

Shortfalls in poker machine

Shortfalls occurred in the area of poker machine renewals by \$696,000 and business license fees by \$202,982, Fitial said.

He said the collection of indirect cost charges fell short of estimates by \$1,029,433, but is expected to be recovered at a later date upon receiving approval of an actual indirect cost rate.

"Currently, the Commonwealth is using an interim rate that should be adjusted in the near future after necessary approvals are granted," he said.

Expenditures and DPS overtime

The total expenditures/obligations for the fiscal year exceeded total appropriations and allotments by \$232,328. Fitial said total personnel expenditures for the year exceeded budget allotments by \$511,778, while total expenditures and obligations under the "all

others" category were well within appropriations by \$279,450, resulting in a net expenditure/over obligation (or deficit) of \$232,328.

"The bulk of the expenditures for the fiscal year were attributed to excessive expenditures in operations, directly related to utility consumption and Department of Public Safety overtime," he noted.

Fitial said the factors setting off the utility expenditures amounting to \$9,383,333 were triggered by the rising cost of fuel and further exacerbated by a budget shortfall.

In addition, he said, non-general fund sources amounting to \$754,783 through the Solid Waste Program absorbed departmental utility expenditures as expense transfers.

Rota and Tinian net overrun

Fitial said the net overrun in the First Senatorial District (Rota) amounting to \$69,195 relates to personnel expenditures.

The net overrun in the Second Senatorial District (Tinian) amounting \$30,910 was attributed to overtime within the DPS.

The overtime expenses, Fitial said, exceeded \$201,930 for the department alone.

However, lapsed funds within the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiñan and other departments within the senatorial district absorbed the excessive expenditures, reducing the total net overrun to \$30,910, he added.

Medical referral and Medicaid expenditures

Fitial said the overrun in expenditures for medical referral amounting to \$4,790,059 was triggered by an increase in the number of patient referrals requiring critical care abroad.

He said qualifying expenses amounting to \$2,165,721 were defrayed using expense transfers to outside sources deriving from the Tobacco Control and Tobacco Settlement.

Fitial said the reprogramming authority granted to him pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution, 17-22, SD1, covered a significant amount of \$2,491,147.

Fitial said excessive expenditures in Medicaid reimbursements amounting \$3,056,193 was a result of the increase in the number of qualified Medicaid and indigent patients.

"Of this total amount, \$359,496 was defrayed through expense transfers using the tobacco settlement revenues and \$329,832 was offset by reprogramming of lapses," he added.

DUE TO SDLLC'S OPPOSITION TO PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Judge sets hearing to reconsider injunction vs PPA

Sen. Torres: Bring back Buckingham at all costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas' opinion on the controversial no-bid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the CNMI government "should bring back at all costs" former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

"I continue to urge the administration to acknowledge that Ed Buckingham is a fugitive," said Torres Wednesday.

He said it is important that Buckingham be extradited back to the CNMI so he could clarify exactly what transpired when he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the power purchase agreement with Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman issued an order declaring Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

The Office of the Public Auditor had filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham. An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

In his opinion issued on Monday, San Nicolas declared that Fitial is not liable for any cause of action related to his signing of the power purchase agreement.

San Nicolas said Fitial cannot be blamed because he reasonably relied on the certification of then attorney general Buckingham that the power purchase agreement was "proper as to form and capacity."

San Nicolas, however, determined that Fitial did not have the authority, pursuant to Executive Order 2012-17, to enter into the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Asked for an update regarding Buckingham's extradition, press secretary Angel A. Demapan on Wednesday said Fitial has no position until a recommendation is communicated for his review and determination.

San Nicolas stated that the issue of Buckingham's extradition is being handled by Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback.

San Nicolas said he assigned Hasselback as conflict counsel in this matter as he (San Nicolas) and the Office of the Attorney General had potential conflicts in the case.

San Nicolas recently asked Hasselback to prepare an analysis and recommendation on the extradition matter to be submitted to Fitial no later than Jan. 10, 2013.

San Nicolas designated Hasselback as special prosecutor to assess the criminal charges against Buckingham and to determine whether the interests of justice requires the latter's extradition.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman scheduled yesterday a hearing to reconsider the preliminary injunction the court issued on the controversial \$190.8-million power purchase agreement between the government and Saipan Development LLC.

The judge set this hearing for Jan. 17, 1:30pm in Courtroom 223A to give the parties an opportunity to present evidence and argue the following merits of injunctive relief: irreparable harm, likelihood of success on the merits, balance of hardships, and any public interest factors.

According to Wiseman, the court granted the preliminary injunction in September princi-

pally relying on the non-opposition of the government.

SDLLC filed on Oct. 5 a motion to vacate the preliminary injunction, claiming that the injunction order was improperly issued because the court lacked personal jurisdiction over it, and that the injunction is unnecessary because the plaintiffs have an adequate remedy at law. The court also failed to consider appropriate factors in issuing the preliminary injunction, SDLLC said.

A preliminary injunction is a court order made in the early stages of a lawsuit or petition which prohibits the parties from doing an act that is in dispute, thereby maintaining the status quo until there is a final judgment after trial.

According to court documents, SDLLC argues that the injunction should be vacated because it was not served prior to the issuance of the preliminary injunction, and as a result, the court lacked jurisdiction over it. SDLLC later waived objection to personal jurisdiction after it failed to advance any argument concerning personal jurisdiction, lack of process or defective service of process.

SDLLC also asked the court to vacate the preliminary injunction because it contends that the court erroneously assumed that all defendants consented to be enjoined. The court, SDLLC added, also failed to address the injunctive relief factors laid out

in *Villanueva v Tinian Shipping & Transp. Inc.*

Wiseman, in his order yesterday, said the court did not have the benefit of SDLLC's arguments before rendering its injunction decision.

"In consideration of equitable and due process principles the court finds that SDLLC demonstrated a basis for reconsideration," stated Wiseman's order. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

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Razzano's retention urged for duration of Fund litigation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The plaintiff in the ongoing federal case involving the NMI Retirement Fund and the government wants trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano retained for the duration of the litigation.

In her latest filing yesterday, Betty Johnson asked designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood to retain Razzano in response to the Fund's motion to show cause for contempt and imposition of sanctions filed early last month.

According to Johnson, regardless of whether the court grants the motion for an order to show cause, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nominees to the Fund board cannot assume the duties of trustees of the Fund because of "irreparable conflicts of interests."

"The Fund is adverse to the governor in this litigation, and the governor should not now be allowed to nominate people to run the very entity that is suing him. The court should retain the [trustee *ad litem*] and prevent the governor from trying to hijack the Fund and stop this lawsuit by nominating trustees whom the governor hopes will do his bidding and put the governor's and CNMI's interests above those of the Fund and its beneficiaries," stated Johnson through her counsels.

Johnson believes that the governor's current nomination is an attempt to prevent the Fund from acting independently and to prevent the federal court from requiring the CNMI to comply with the law.

Johnson pointed out that the Fund has not had a quorum

since at least July 31, 2012, when administrator Richard Villagomez's contract expired. "Yet, the governor did not attempt to appoint a new trustee until Nov. 14 after his attempt to seize the Fund through Executive Order 2012-06 was rejected by the court."

Under this EO, the Fund was to be transferred to the Department of Finance.

"As long as the governor is adverse to the Fund in a lawsuit, a conflict of interest exists between him and whomever he nominates as Fund trustee. Trustees with conflicts of interest cannot act in this litigation, and this court has an obligation to prevent them from doing so and to allow only the trustee *ad litem* to act for the Fund," added Johnson.

The government, through At-

torney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, continues to oppose the appointment of a receiver

for the Fund, believing this will only further deplete funds.

But if the court decides to ap-

point a receiver, the government is recommending Mark Heath for the position.

Regents review evidence report vs NMC president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The much-awaited review of allegations raised by some faculty members against Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., began yesterday.

Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama confirmed that the board met yesterday in a work session to begin the review of all materials submitted to the board by both Hart and the faculty, which earlier issued a no-confidence vote against their chief executive officer.

The work session will continue today, Friday, Lizama said.

"The faculty [members] have made serious allegations, and as such, we are carefully reviewing and analyzing all the items submitted in the most expedient way possible," he said, adding that the board appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as the board sifts through the materials.

The chairman, during a recent board meeting, had ordered that all documents submitted to the board be kept sealed until the review. These documents relate to the evidence report submitted by Faculty Senate president Amanda Angel-Diaz, who provided materials as evidence of the alleged wrongdoings of the college president. Hart's reply, which was also presented to the board, remained sealed with the evidence report.

In a statement, Lizama cautioned everyone from discussing in the open what he called "sensitive information" about the no-confidence vote.

"I would caution everyone to exercise restraint in publicly discussing sensitive information, especially discussing it in a forum that may be inappropriate," he said.

He promised, however, that the board is committed to "openness and transparency."

"While we are committed to openness and transparency, the process by which the board will resolve this issue will also remain dignified and respectful of all parties involved," Lizama said, adding that the board is scheduled to meet on Jan. 7 where its findings are expected to be announced.

During last week's meeting, the board declared invalid the faculty assembly's no-confidence vote, citing the lack of

quorum that, according to Lizama, violated the faculty's own bylaws and regulations.

Despite the board's determination, it accepted the faculty report and promised to look at all the evidence submitted.

Evidence report

The no-confidence vote against Hart alleged financial mismanagement of college funds, among others.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that the faculty alleges that Hart spent a total of \$201,755 in travel expenses in fiscal year 2012, as indicated in the President's Office 2012 Expenditure Report.

For Hart's personal reimbursement, the faculty reported total expense of \$1,101 that they claim are "unwarranted expenses."

The report also alleges unethical hiring of family members, including Hart's son and husband, and alleged interference and manipulation of the student registration process to favor a son-in-law.

Hart was earlier criticized for her involvement in the hiring of her husband as a foundation consultant, who was paid \$14,000 for a 10-week project.

Other issues raised against the president is the unauthorized use of a government-issued vehicle by family members; equipment purchase without requests for proposals; interference with HRO hiring processes to benefit acquaintances; dishonored contracts; plagiarism; and others.

During last week's meeting, Hart showed the board an envelope full of materials that she described as her evidence against all these allegations.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Kimberly Reyes, fourth from right and her husband Walter Manglona, third from left, pose with the prizes she won in Saipan Computer Services' Customer Appreciation Raffle. Reyes, of Dandan village, was both the first prize winner of a Nikon D3100 still/video SLR camera and the grand prize winner of a home theater showcase that included a 47" LG full HD LED Tru-Motion TV, a Blu-Ray system, and six wireless surround speakers. Others in photo are, from left, SCS staff Bryan Fabre, SCS managing director Kazuko Kawabe-Tiu, and SCS staff Jackie Bonto, Grace Delos Santos, and Joey Parana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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/LB.

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\$4⁹⁸

Hite Beer Bottle

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Tide Laundry Soap Powder

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508 G.

\$1⁹⁸
1.36 KG.

\$3⁹⁸
2.28 KG.

Joy Dish.

\$6⁹⁸
90 OZ.

Clorox

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USCG helps Indonesia improve port security

INDONESIA—To many, awareness of our national security begins and ends at the airport. Few are aware of the extent of forward deployed military, federal and contracted specialists, as well as international counterparts, laboring toward our security here at home.

A significant amount of maritime trade originates in Asia and as such the region's security posture is directly tied to the national security of U.S. ports and the nation as a whole. After the attacks of Sept. 11, new efforts were focused on the risks of terrorism threatening the international trading community. The Coast Guard worked with the International Maritime Organization to develop the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. ISPS is the internationally accepted blueprint of security measures for a maritime infrastructure. Nations whose security does not meet these standards complicate trade by initiating added layers of security. These added security efforts, although vital, adversely impact efficient trade. The Coast Guard is helping nations overcome the challenges of improving their port safety and security programs in an effort to improve safety and security while enabling the free and efficient flow of maritime commerce.

Most recently, Coast Guardsmen from Activities Far East, stationed in Singapore and Japan, worked through many challenges with Indonesia to advance its port security measures. Indonesia's program is now in alignment with those set forth in the International Ship and Port Facility Code. Vessels that have previously visited Indonesia are now able to arrive in the



U.S. COAST GUARD/CAPT. MARK MCCADDEN
Lt. Cmdr. James Stellflug, right, a member of the Coast Guard Far East Activities office, assesses an Indonesian port facility's CCTV control room, Nov. 7, 2012. During the assessment, Stellflug observed the security forces' methods to monitor cargo operations.

United States unimpeded by previous, more burdensome security measures.

"The Indonesian people have welcomed the efforts of the Coast Guard International Port Security Program," said Lt. Cmdr. James Stellflug, international port security liaison officer at Activities Far East. "They desire safe and secure maritime trade, just as we do."

The IPS program conducted visits to Indonesian ports from 2005 to 2008, to assess implementation of the newly-established ISPS code. As a result of observed lapses in anti-terrorism measures, the Coast

Guard placed Indonesia on the Port Security Advisory list. The list identifies countries that do not maintain effective anti-terrorism measures. Vessels arriving to the U.S. from countries listed are imposed conditions of entry. These conditions of entry require additional security while in the listed nation's ports, and require all vessels arriving to the United States to undergo advanced screening. It also includes a requirement for vessels to be boarded at sea prior to entering the United States, not only slowing trade, but dramatically increasing the workload for Coast Guard inspectors and

boarding teams.

After Indonesia was placed on the Port Security Advisory list, the IPS program conducted several visits to provide technical assistance and assess port security measures. The IPS inspectors found continuous improvement. By 2011, thirty-four port facilities were exempted from requirements for more intrusive measures due to adequate antiterrorism improvements.

In July 2011, an Indonesian designated authority visited Coast Guard Sector Guam, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, and the 14th Coast Guard District headquarters in Honolulu. The trip allowed the delegation to observe the security within the respective ports and obtain best practices to assist with their own implementation of security.

As a result of the combined efforts of the Coast Guard and the Indonesian designated authority, Indonesia has shown improvement, as well as the ability to sustain implementation of the ISPS code. The Coast Guard removed Indonesia from the Port Security Advisory on Dec. 3, 2012.

"There is no final step in security, the effort must continue to be advanced," said Stellflug. "The IPS program will continue to collaborate in order to enhance port security in all of our trading partner nations."

Safe transportation of cargo is critical to ensure the health of the maritime transportation network. This enormous step shows that progress can be made in the collaboration of security measures between governments, thus ensuring the continued mutual prosperity and safety of our nations. (USCG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 4, 2001

DPH drafts plan on use of tobacco settlement funds

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has asked the House Ways and Means Committee to consider the strategic plan drafted by the department in appropriating funds received by the CNMI government in connection with the tobacco industry settlement. Mr. Villagomez made the recommendations in response to a proposed measure which will establish a Master Settlement Agreement Trust Fund for the initial deposit of all funds from the tobacco settlement. Introduced by Rep. Malua T. Peter, HB 12-290 will ensure the preservation of funds until the CNMI Legislature has determined the appropriate allocation of funds. The bill requires the Finance Secretary to establish a separate CNMI Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund for deposit of all funds, past and future, received by the CNMI.

Tanapag PCB remediation project resumes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Tanapag PCB Remediation Project has resumed work following a break for the holiday season. The most recent phase of the project being done in Tanapag Village began in August. Since then, more than 12,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyl, commonly referred to as PCBs, has been removed from Cemetery No. 2 and other Tanapag village sites and stockpiled in nearby containment cells. Environmental Chemical Corporation of Aiea, Hawaii, a leading company in the PCB-remediation field, is doing the work under contract with the Corps.

Jan. 4, 2002

New law frees up CIP money for PSS

House Bill 12-426 would probably go down in CNMI legislative history as one of the fastest bill that got signed into law, after making it through the legislative process in exactly a month. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed House Bill 12-426 on December 31 or 31 days after the House of Representatives first passed the measure, which, in effect, would make the CNMI compliant with the grant terms of the Office of Insular Affairs and eligible once more for new grants. The measure now officially known as Public Law 12-81 essentially transfers the responsibility for a classrooms project from the Rota High School to the Northern Marianas College.

Inclusion of students with disabilities urged

The Council for Exceptional Children underscored the need for full inclusion of students with disabilities to help them become proficient in socialization, history or math facts. The council said that although it is obvious that there are more opportunities for everyone to grow and learn in an inclusive classrooms rather than a one-on-one approach. "Inclusion of all students teaches the student and his or other peers that all persons are equally valued members of this society and that it is worthwhile to do whatever it takes to include everyone," said the council.

Jan. 4, 2003

MPLA board 'unaware' of Bertha's return

The Marianas Public Lands Authority board of directors has nothing to do with the rehiring of former MPLA commissioner Bertha Leon Guerrero. MPLA board chairperson Ana Demapan-Castro disclosed this Thursday, noting that she wasn't aware that Leon Guerrero is back on government service "until now." Leon Guerrero, who was terminated by the board on Nov. 20, was recently hired by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to be his special assistant on political and regional affairs. Part of her duties now is to oversee all commissions, councils, task forces, and boards, including that of the MPLA. When asked, Demapan-Castro said that the board never made any recommendation to the governor to absorb the former MPLA commissioner.

PSS needs \$2M for Rota schools

The Public School System has incurred some \$2 million in losses on Rota due to supertyphoon Pongsona. Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero said the estimated loss was contained in a report submitted by the PSS to the Governor's Office. "That's the amount based on the report by the commissioner," Guerrero said. Education commissioner Rita H. Inos personally supervised the typhoon damage assessment for Rota schools. Among the heavily damaged government facilities on Rota were Rota High School and Junior High School buildings. Inos said the typhoon wrecked school buildings and school buses. As a result, some of the buildings would have to be abandoned.



NOTICE OF MEETING NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Monday, January 07, 2013
Time: 9:30a.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Faculty Concerns
- IV. Executive Session
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents, Board Members may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential).
- V. Board Meeting Assessment
- VI. Adjournment

/s/ Juan T. Lizama
BOR Chairperson

Date: January 04, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

This is to inform the General Public that the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association will be having its general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 6:00PM at the Garapan Central Park.

Agenda

- I. Election of Committeewoman
- II. Miscellaneous
- III. Adjournment

Benigno R. Fitial
President

DEQ Cleanup Brigade nets 18,500 lbs of trash in 2012

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality Monthly Cleanup Brigade collected over 18,500 lbs of trash throughout Saipan last year, and organizers are optimistic that efforts to keep the island clean would continue successfully in 2013.

Last year's trash collection figures involved not only the volume collected through the regular cleanup but also the islandwide cleanup in April in observance of Environmental Awareness Month, and the International Coastal Cleanup in September, brigade coordinator Joe Kaipat said yesterday.

"The Cleanup Brigade, which started in 1996, was created as an outreach effort. We're trying to reach out to the community to help pick up trash and to gain more volunteers to help in a campaign that's working," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kaipat, who's been spearheading the initiative since 2008, said the success of the cleanup brigade would not have been possible without the hard work of DEQ staff and all the volunteer individuals and organizations.

He disclosed that they get an average of 75 volunteers per month, and these volunteers are provided with refreshments. Those who have participated in at least three cleanups receive a brigade cap while those who have taken part in a minimum of 10 cleanups get a brigade t-shirt.

As coordinator, Kaipat said he tries to sustain the support of regular volunteers and motivate new ones to keep the program running and minimize trash on island.

Kaipat noted that their volunteer data also do not take into account the other individuals and groups that conduct their own regular cleanups as part of other valuable environmental programs run by organizations like the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

With more groups initiating similar programs, Kaipat is encouraging other groups to keep records of their monthly cleanup, explaining that data collection would be instrumental in determining whether the cleanup is successful or not.

"People would be more enticed to donate to nonprofit groups if they have data to support their activities," he added.

DEQ, as a government agency, cannot accept donations for its Cleanup Brigade, said Kaipat. Their activities and supplies have "limited funding" out of a base grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the money that the group makes when they sell recyclable materials like aluminum cans.

Kaipat is hoping that the brigade's efforts would be en-

hanced by the approval into law of a bill that would lower the "hefty and steep" fines litter control officers can impose on violators, saying that the move would help curb littering and il-

legal dumping on island.

He said they also expect to get representatives from Tinian and Rota to rally support in extending the campaign to the two islands.

Kaipat thanked all DEQ staff

and volunteers for their hard work in the cleanup brigade in 2012. "Keep up the good work. Don't give up. Let's help educate others and continue to do our work."



DENTAL OUTREACH

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Flannery works on a patient at the Tinian Health Center on Dec. 3 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The Navy dentists saw approximately 20 to 25 patients a day. Flannery is a general dentist with 11th Dental Company, 3rd Dental Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

He urged the public to take responsibility for disposing their trash properly by taking it with them after a picnic or a barbecue party at the beach or anywhere on the island.

"You wouldn't want others to throw trash in your property, so don't do it in public places too. If you know that it's bad,

don't do it. We encourage you to join us in our cleanups," added Kaipat.

This year's first cleanup is scheduled at 8am on Saturday, Jan. 5, at Tank Beach, and Kaipat said the DEQ Cleanup Brigade is always in need of additional volunteers. For more information, call 664-8500 or 01.

Total ban on betel nut eyed for PNG capital

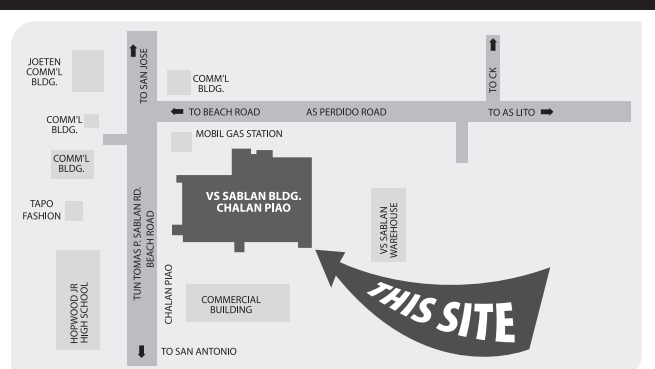
PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, is facing a total ban on betel nut in 2013 if the National Capital District Commission board has its way.

The commission is considering a blanket ban on all forms of vehicles, planes, and boats

ferrying betel nut into the city, surveillance at major roads and ports and heavy fines.

NCD Governor Powes Parkop announced the board's intentions yesterday in a bid to clean up Port Moresby of rubbish created by betel nut waste, spittle and rubbish left behind by street vendors. It costs the city authority millions to clean up betel nut filth.

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Sen. Daniel Inouye's military valor

When Democratic Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii died in December, the United States lost one of its 20th-century heroes. He spent nearly 50 years in the Senate, rising to third in line of presidential succession. His courageous military accomplishments put him in the ranks of such senators as Bob Dole, John Glenn and John McCain.

The many tributes to Inouye tended to focus more on his Senate career than his service in World War II, perhaps because he had such an extraordinary tenure in the Senate. That military service should not be neglected, though.

Daniel Inouye was a Nisei, an American-born child of Japanese immigrants. After Pearl Harbor, more than 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry were relocated in internment camps across the United States (although there were few relocations in Hawaii which was not yet a state). Young Nisei men, including Inouye, were initially classified as dual nationals, unfit for military service.

Wanting to show their loyalty, many volunteered and were eventually organized into the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was nicknamed "Go For Broke" because of the danger

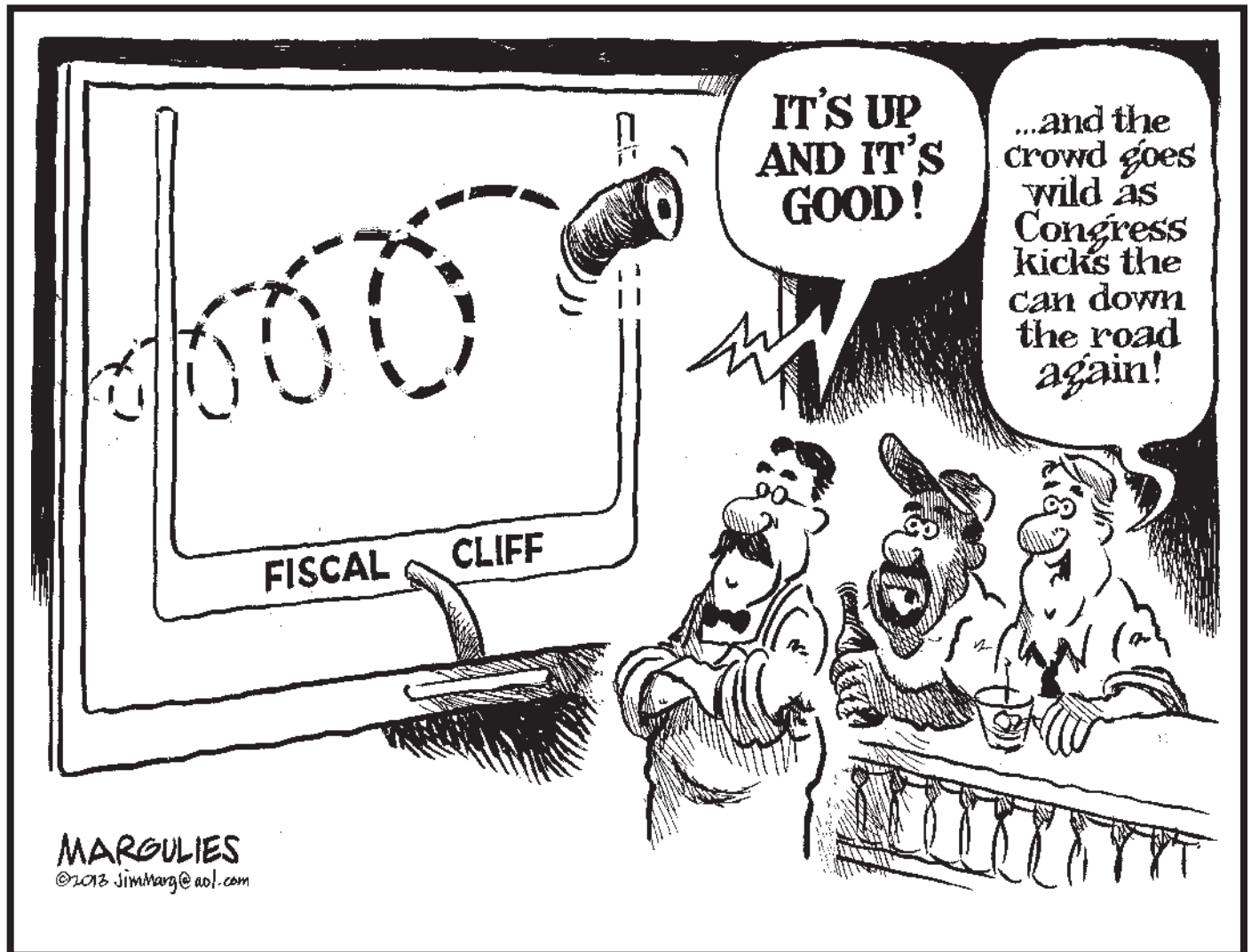


it faced in the European theater. For its size and length of service, the 442nd was the most highly decorated unit in American history—and also suffered one of the highest casualty rates. Inouye, who lost his right arm in combat, was one of the team's 21 recipients of the Medal of Honor, America's highest military award.

His actions were described in the Medal of Honor citation:

"Second Lt. Daniel K. Inouye distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 21 April 1945, in the vicinity of San Terenzo, Italy. While attacking a defended ridge guarding an important road junction, 2nd Lt. Inouye skillfully directed his platoon through a hail of automatic weapon and small arms fire, in a swift enveloping movement that resulted in the capture of an artillery and mortar post and brought his men to within 40 yards of the hostile force. Emplaced in bunkers and rock formations, the enemy halted the advance with crossfire from three machine guns. With complete disregard for his personal safety, 2nd Lt. Inouye crawled up the treacherous slope to within five yards of the nearest machine gun and hurled two grenades, destroying the emplacement. Before the enemy could retaliate, he stood up and neutralized a second machine gun nest. Although wounded by a sniper's bullet, he continued to engage other hostile positions at close range until an exploding grenade shattered his right arm.

See INOUE on Next Page



The perils of political punditry

Back in 2011, at the dawn of a long presidential campaign, I established a fine baseline for my credentials as a political prognosticator: I told readers that Mitt Romney's strongest challengers for the Republican nomination would be Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Neither one has been heard from since.

Could I top that record in 2012?

Pretty close. Last spring, I announced in a column that Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio would be Romney's running mate. Sure, I hedged a little, saying the choice was "almost certain."

But, hey, Portman seemed perfect: a bland, budget-savvy conservative from the most important swing state.

Yes, I noted, Romney seemed to like Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. But it didn't seem possible to me that he'd take the risk of embracing Ryan's proposal to turn Medicare into a voucher plan.

The smart money was on Portman, I wrote. That was true. But the smart money and I were wrong.

That was only one of several bad calls, blind alleys and blunders that I lavished on readers in the course of 2012, an election year with a lot of surprises.

My biggest wrong turn, in retrospect, was a theme I sounded several times during the campaign: the presidential election was certain to be close.

Not just close, but "razor close ... and headed toward an unpredictable finish," I wrote in October, after President Obama's lackluster performance in his initial debate with Romney.

Only it wasn't close. When the dust settled, Obama defeated Romney soundly, winning 51 percent of the popular vote and all but one of the swing states.

Heck, it wasn't even unpredictable. As political junkies know, several people, including statistician Nate Silver of the New York Times and political scientist Simon Jackman of Stanford University, called the outcome down to the last electoral vote.

What happened?

Simple: Obama voters, especially Latinos and young people, turned out in greater numbers than most forecasters expected. Romney voters didn't.

To quote Romney's pollster, Neil Newhouse, who thought his candidate was going to win: "We saw, in the last two weeks, an intensity advantage"—but it turned out to be a mirage. "The real hidden story (was) the number of white men who didn't vote."

My only consolation is that I wasn't as wrong as Newhouse or his Republican colleague Karl Rove, who predicted that Romney would win by a comfortable margin.

On the eve of the election, I wrote that Obama had a clear advantage in the swing states, making his electoral-vote victory almost certain. But the popular vote, I warned, was still "too close to call."

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



Instead, Obama won the popular vote by almost 4 percentage points and became the first Democrat since Franklin D. Roosevelt to win more than 50% in consecutive elections.

Beyond the perils of horse-race punditry, the scale of Obama's victory was significant for several reasons. It demonstrated that the demographic transformation of the American electorate has occurred more quickly than expected, which means the GOP has a permanent problem if it continues to depend on aging white voters. And as my colleague Ron Brownstein pointed out, the Democratic coalition that reelected Obama was solidly in favor of liberal positions on taxes, immigration and gay marriage, giving the president an unusually united electoral base as he pushes for agenda items such as immigration reform.

Did I get anything right? Sure. I forecast early and often that Romney would survive challenges from that dizzying chorus line of primary opponents, from Michele Bachmann to Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum. I argued that Romney would run as a conservative, not as a moderate, despite an aide's prescription that he change like an Etch A Sketch; that turned out to be mostly true. And in a minor feat of clairvoyance, I wrote on the eve of the first Obama-Romney debate that incumbent presidents often stumble in those contests. Obama walked straight into the historical trap; like earlier presidents, he thought he had more important things to do than prepare for a debate. Wrong!

On some predictions, the jury is still out. I wrote that an election that returned a Republican House and a Democratic Senate would guarantee two more years of gridlock; I hope I was wrong about that. After the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colo., in July, I wrote that the debate on gun control was long over and the National Rifle Assn. had won; public revulsion at the murder of 20 schoolchildren in Newtown, Conn., will put that crabbed diagnosis to the test.

And only a few weeks ago, I peered over the edge of the "fiscal cliff"—and assured worried readers that it wasn't as bad as it looked.

"It's not really a cliff," I wrote. "It's merely a steep, scary slope. ... If Congress fails to make a deal by Christmas, that doesn't mean the economy automatically tips into a recession."

I was correct on the first half of that prediction—that a "grand bargain" on taxes and spending wouldn't happen by the end of the year. As for the second half—that the economy wouldn't be too badly hurt as a result—I only hope I got that one right too.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Big visions, little details

The bubbly zest of the New Year inspires grand notions of doing great things in the coming 12 months. Yes, behold the view from the vista of fresh optimism: There's an entire year of new territory to be conquered with grand visions.

Well, not that I'm against grandness, but by the time late January rolls around most of us are mired in the details of normal life again.

Indeed, the wheels of grandness seem to grind exceedingly fine. This time around, I'm making my peace with it.

So meet the New Year: same as the Old Year.

We might as well get down to business then. The west Pacific is still the most dynamic part of the world after all, and business is an important thing to heed. Heck, it's probably the only thing to heed, unless you want to spend your golden years begging for a pension that may never materialize.

An economist once characterized entrepreneurs, the true engines of any functional economy, as people who "get things done." That's a bull's eye description if there ever was one.

Another wonk observed that the secret of business is that before you do one thing, you have to do a thousand other things. Here, too, we're in bull's eye territory.

To summarize: Things. Done. Details.

Got it? Yeah, me, too.

But here's what I think: Not all things and details are created equal.

Or, more accurately, not all contexts are created equal. Some lend themselves to a neatly systematic way to roll over the details, while others are a buzzing swarm of random tasks that defy any orderly way to address them.

An example of a systematic gig is college. Any college has already defined the entire system: the rules, the options, and what con-

stitutes progress. You just climb the ladder, one rung at a time, try not to spill too much beer on your toga, and presto, the day comes where you've finished the gig.

And the workforce? More of the same, usually. Large, bureaucratic employers offer defined paths and clear steps for progression. Sure, there are details to be faced, but they're lined up in straight order, so you don't juggle them as much as methodically mow them down.

Even the swashbuckling Rudyard Kipling noted, "It's the steady, quiet, plodding ones who win in the life long race."

Point noted, but that only applies in certain situations, and the lush empire of Kipling's days might not have universal, nor contemporary, applicability.

Which brings us to the opposite case of the organizational plodder. I refer to the entrepreneur, and especially the small-fry who can't just spray money at all the nagging obstacles of establishing a business.

It always looks simple and orderly in books or magazine articles: "First you write a business plan. Then a random banker gives you a couple of million bucks to play with, because, well, that's what random bankers do. Before you know it you're ready for mezzanine financing. Soon, before the lease on your 5-series BMW expires, your IPO will go live. But don't be greedy! Wait until after the checks clear before trading up to a 7-series."

Maybe it goes that cleanly in some cases. But I can't recall seeing any first hand.

The cases I've seen, and have even been involved with, were largely based on flailing away at seemingly random details. And once you cut into one detail, it divides, amoeba-like, into more details, especially if you're involved in an international business.

You'd think this is a ripe eco-system for an economist. Maybe it's

Year of Our Lord 2013

We begin the Year 2013 hopefully refreshed and ready to work with new sets of prism and paradigms to better the lot of the multitude or our people.

Foremost, we must change the old language to something new, replacing it with insightful views on issues we must undertake forthwith this year. We must be prepared for the whims of the "unthinkable" and change that is "inevitable." It would be foolhardy glorifying and celebrating the failures of recent past and beneficial to understand that even experts use the old physics of yester-years that are basically irrelevant and useless.

We must build the capacity for creativity and innovation. In fact, we must develop an obsession to find better ways to survive shifts in the "unthinkable" or the unpredictable demands of constant newness. After all, change is at the center of our lives. Must work with the belief that in spite of physical limitations, the tide of history is on our side, bringing us closer to our dreams and aspirations.

In spite of the limitations and difficulty mapping development of island economies, I often quiz if our attitude of "mañana" and "bwibwi" are deterrents in our ability to move forward beyond conventional wisdom. Are we capable of undertaking tough and long-term reforms that would enable opportunities for a more prosperous future? Or are we still stuck in the filthy mud of some aspect of the local culture? Is misery cultural? In 2002, a UN Development Program study states, "Culture and values are the soul of development. They provide its impetus, facilitate the means needed to further it, and substantially define people's vision of its purposes and ends.

"Of course, many factors contribute to a country's poverty or prosperity, including the quality of its leadership, its economic orientation, and the absence or presence of effective legal and other governing and regulatory institutions."

But what is it in the local culture that is of major setback? Or is it simply one of being completely out of focus, therefore the resultant inability to focus and put things into perspective? Must we consistently use *mañana* to strengthen the cargo cult mentality to someday build our own bamboo reed airplane, hoping it rains down money from way yonder? Would not this mindset result in predicting our future like the daily sunrise each break of dawn out east? How about real reality check? There's the old adage "The tide waits for no man."

■ ■ ■

Administrative State

It isn't shocking news that the Obama administration is poised to re-

place a government of laws with what's known among conservative scholars as the "administrative state." It's basically the creation, via a myriad of heavy-handed regulations, of a government dictated by agency heads shifting individual responsibility to collective rule.

Agency heads craft and execute policies on American livelihood governing basically everything that aren't subject to legislative or judicial review. It's the proliferation of rules and regulations given that the U.S. Congress has emasculated itself of its authority to consider laws thoroughly. It's another of the over a hundred ways to violate the original intent of the U.S. Constitution.

This phenomenon is documented in Robert Higgs 1987 book *Crisis and Leviathan*, asserting the four consequences when individual responsibility is shifted to the collective:

"The first is that individuals become dependent on the government for the responsibility that has been shifted, and lose some freedom in the process. The government, now responsible, calls the shots. It tells you what you get, when, how much, whether it's indexed to inflation, whether your spouse gets anything—the list is almost endless. These are choices you once made for yourself, but now you don't.

"Second, resources are also shifted because the government has to provide for its new responsibility. It gets its resources from taxing the very individuals whose responsibilities it took over. To the extent that the new taxes decrease the after tax return on saving, investing or labor, there is less of it, which leads to slower economic growth.

"The third consequence is that to the extent that the government allocates its newfound resources less efficiently than the private sector from which it took them—which is often the case—economic growth slows even more.

"Finally, responsibility is rarely shifted back to the individual. This is because the collective is protective of its new power, and the individual does not have the clout to reverse it. It takes a groundswell of individuals to reverse the course, a difficult task at best.

"The shifting of responsibility has expanded to the point where nearly all retirees are now dependent on the collective—Social Security. It has confronted new shocks, such as unfavorable demographics, the government has responded by decreasing benefits and raising taxes, causing an inefficient system to be more so. Given that the system faces a present unfunded liability in the trillions of dollars, scheduled taxes and benefits will not be honored. Yet, totally consistent with the fourth consequence, the collective holds on, disallowing any competition that would shift responsibility back to

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



not. Economists are always looking for the relationship between the input and the output in order to optimize the inputs.

But an entrepreneurial situation is often too murky to offer such clean relationships, or, for that matter, even any dirty ones.

Of the successful entrepreneurs I've known, all have been highly competent, but most have not been particularly analytical. Most never went to college. They were simply more interested in hands-on reality than in theory. They are doers. They roll up their sleeves and get to work. Period.

As for myself and my humble array of little projects, this situation deserves constant attention, lest I get bogged down in trying to optimize decisions that simply can't be optimized. I'm analytical by nature and by training, but that's not always the magical solution to everything.

So for me, 2013 is really an opportunity to get better at tending details, and most especially the random, mundane, and unrewarding ones. If you're on the same boat, and some of you are, then I may not have any answers, but at least I've given you a whole lot of commiseration.

Anyway: Meet the New Year. Yes, it's the same as last year, but this time around we already know it.

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



the individual.

"As we now confront the shock of virtually unaffordable entitlements, this history sheds light on what we're likely in for. The collective will probably gain more power and further increase individual dependency while decreasing individual choice. Additional resources will shift to the government so that the fundamental structure of Social Security remains intact, a political imperative of the collective. Competition from the private sector will not be allowed. All these lead to less economic growth." Perhaps our Washington Office ought to hop on the train of likely economic derailment to take an ocular review what the implications are for the CNMI. Will any of the new regulations compromise the letter and spirit of the Covenant Agreement on self-government?

INOUE

From Page 10






Despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation and continued to direct his platoon until enemy resistance was broken and his men were again deployed in defensive positions. In the attack, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and eight others captured. By his gallant, aggressive tactics and by his indomitable leadership, 2nd Lt. Inouye enabled his platoon to advance through formidable resistance, and was instrumental in the capture of the ridge."

Because of historical racial discrimination in the consideration of medal candidates, Inouye did not receive the Medal of Honor until 2000, when President Bill Clinton corrected the egregious omission. Despite the long-standing oversight, Daniel Inouye's life was a rich tapestry woven with courage, valor and patriotism.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times. East to northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with stronger gusts.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times. East to northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with stronger gusts.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.
▲87° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼81

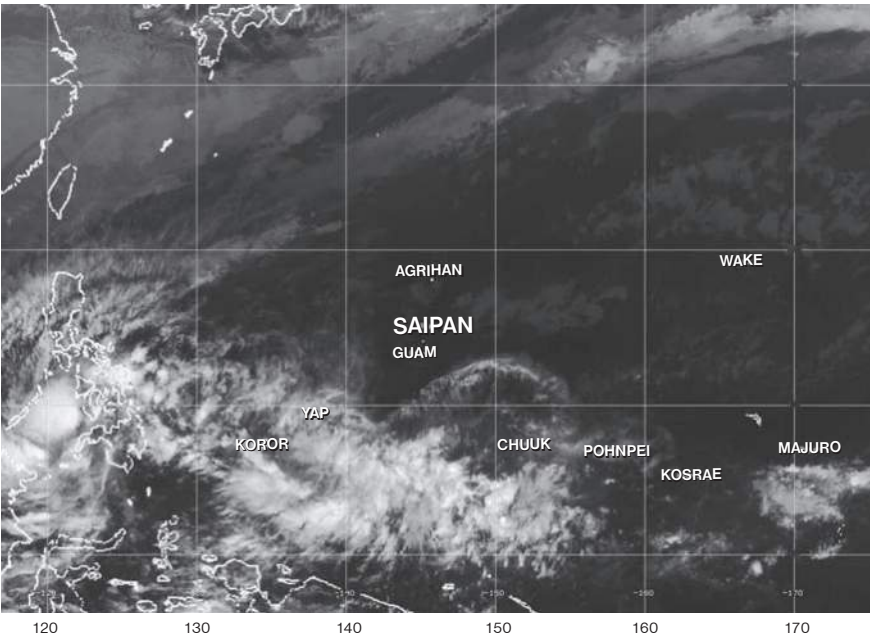
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲29 ▼8
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼55
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼47
Los Angeles	Windy	▲67 ▼42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲97 ▼66
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼66
New York	Sunny	▲32 ▼26
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼32
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼44
Pusan	Sunny	▲36 ▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲58 ▼41
Salem	Showers	▲45 ▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲60 ▼43
Seoul	Sunny	▲24 ▼11
Tokyo	Sunny	▲44 ▼29
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼30

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
12:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line northwest of the Marianas extends southwestward from from 25N145E past Iwo To island to beyond 17N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from near Yap across the Republic of Palau to south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 270 miles of a line from 9N130E to 4N143E to 2N157E. Convergent trade winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Majuro and northwest of Butaritari between 2N and 6N from 167E to 173E and within 100 miles of a line from 5N173E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:47 PM	11:10 AM
Saturday		11:53 AM
Sunday	12:42 AM	12:39 PM
Monday	1:40 AM	1:29 PM
Tuesday	2:40 AM	2:42 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 1, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 4:05am 5:55am 1, 3, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 6:30pm 1:50am+1 2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

High surf expected to last until Tuesday

The Emergency Management Office reiterated its high surf and small craft advisories yesterday, warning mariners and beach-goers to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches due to dangerous rip currents.

According to its latest advisory, EMO said that fresh to occasionally strong trade winds with gusts to near gale

force and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will continue over the Marianas waters into the first part of next week.

The high surf advisory and the small craft advisory will remain in effect until 6pm Tuesday.

EMO expects hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet along east facing reefs to persist through early

next week. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet along north facing reefs was expected to continue through last night.

"East to northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots with occasional gusts to 35 knots will subside only slightly to 20 knots with occasional gusts to 30 knots tonight. Winds will then build to 20 to 25 knots with occasional

gusts to 35 knots again on Saturday, then remain at that level through at least Monday. In addition, combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will persist through at least Tuesday," the EMO advisory stated.

The combination of winds and seas will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through early next

week. Inexperienced mariners especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.

EMO is advising the general public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (EMO)

Mariners reminded to exercise caution in high surf conditions

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Whenever there is a high surf or small craft advisory, mariners should check the current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway and leave a float plan with a responsible individual. Surf conditions are especially hazardous when entering or leaving harbors and near inlets and reef lines. Mariners should remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: if in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

In addition, marinas and local boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG.

Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners to consider the following:

Leave a float plan—with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

Always have flares and other visual distress signals: Inspect them regularly; they can save your life and help rescuers find you at night should you be in distress.

Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket—and set the example for your passengers or paddling partners. Before getting underway, verify you have enough life jackets for everyone on board.

Maintain awareness on the water: Be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

Don't boat alone: Boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak or boat with at least three people or two craft.

Know your limitations: Be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.

BEACH SAFETY TIPS

Know the terrain: Be aware of

and avoid drop-offs and hidden obstacles in natural water sites. Always enter water feet first.

Avoid rip currents: Watch for dangerous waves and signs of rip currents, like water that is discolored and choppy, foamy, or filled with debris and moving in a channel away from shore. If

you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore; once free of the current, swim diagonally toward shore.

Be on the lookout: When swimmers are in or near water closely supervise them at all times, even when lifeguards are present. Always use the buddy

system, don't swim alone.

RESOURCES

For safety equipment requirements based on the size and type of your vessel, visit: <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

For local National Weather Service advisories, visit: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/>. (USCG)

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Lions Club presents CDAC kids with toys

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lions Club International District 204 Region 2 brought holiday cheer to the children at the Children's Development Assistance Center during their annual gift giving on Dec. 21.

Close to 60 gifts were turned over by a dozen Lions to CDAC director Robin Palacios and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, said Region 2 public relations officer Annamae Adaza.

The gift-giving program was initiated by the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club before it became a joint project among the three clubs that comprise District Region 2, which are the Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, and Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club.

"Ms. Palacios was very grateful that Lions continued to do the annual gift giving as some of the parents of those special children were already asking if they will receive gifts from Lions," said Adaza.

She added that the gifts will be shared among CDAC clients on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape expressed hope that they will be able to host a banquet for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children's Development Assistance Center staff led by director Robin Palacios and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan join officers and members of Lions Club International District 204 Region 2 during their annual gift-giving event last Dec. 21.

children for a chance to meet and play with them in person.

Besides Canape and Adaza, other Region 2 officers are 2nd vice-district governor Pastor Gagaring, zone chair Ruth Torrecampo, Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Paul Madriaga, Saipan Unity Lions

Club president Noemi Catigan, and Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club president Mario Mayuga.

Adaza said the Region 2 Lions vow to continue conducting other community programs, including the medical mission or health fair, youth program activities, and environmental

initiatives such as trash cleanup, adopt a beach and pavilion, and tree planting.

"We will never stop sharing the spirit of Christmas and helping others even in our own little way. We stand by the Lions Clubs' motto, We Serve," she added.

NMC to host free info session on Jan. 7

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend a free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

Those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2013 semester. This represents a savings of about \$75.

The college will also be accepting admissions application for the spring 2013 semester at the information session. The deadline for submitting applications was originally on Jan. 2, 2012, but the college is

making an exception for those who will attend the information session. Those who plan to submit an admission application for the spring 2013 semester must submit it at the information session.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-009**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TRAFFIC MESSAGE TRAILER
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 26, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-010**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUI CHECKPOINT TRAILER FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-011**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) OCCUPANT
PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT CHECKPOINT TRAILER
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NMC13-001**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an "Independent Auditor" to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, December 04, 2012, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., January 4th, 2013, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision aof proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-012(A)(B)**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LTI ULTRA LYTE 200 LASER AND
THREE (3) TRAFFIC CRASH RECREATION SOFTWARE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-013**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 15, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SPEED MONITORING/ANALYSIS
TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 28, 2012 AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
CTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408
-v-	FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
ANGELINA A. MANGLONA, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 18, 2013, at the hour of 12:00 noon, at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 7th day of December, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Juan P. Lairopi and
Diana A. Lairopi
P.O. Box 502018
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.:
(670) 788-7676 (Diana)
(670) 235-1027 (Sonya)

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADOPTION OF:
J. A. L. (D.O.B., 01/18/2008)**
Minor Child,

By:

**Juan P. Lairopi and
Diana A. Lairopi,**
Petitioners

**FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION
NO. 12 - 0482**

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 11, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2013

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Sunshine on the Road

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yang Guang Lu Shang, the Mandarin in our title, glittered on the stage signage as the Liaoning Symphony and seasoned vocalists—including a hundred-plus chorale—regaled a standing room audience at the Shenyang Grand Theatre for New Year 2013 with music qualitative similar to concert halls around the world. The program listed 224 persons that went on stage during the performance.

We joined six foreign SAU instructors who were guests of the university president. We sat in the balcony, not quite the presidential booth (our Pennsylvania Quaker colleague would have demurred were it offered over the recent cinematographically revived Lincoln-Wilkes Booth memory) but affording a magnificent view of the huge theatre. The night was strictly proletarian with the elderly (no one attired to the nines!) and children (both little emperors and precious snowflakes from the one-child family policy) all present with a youngish-looking audience.

The overture set the tone of the holiday spirit. Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* followed conjuring ballerinas pirouetting in their tutus. On the "four seasons," the boys in the audience exceeded their normal attention spans and pulled out their games; the elders started flashing their digital camera cell phones even as the signs

discouraged picture taking. When the "Spanish dance" tuned in, I was hoping for a Bohemian on top of a bar table ala *Bohemia*, or even Romanian gypsies swirling petticoats, but ours was meant to be a sedate evening. The boys quietly played their digital games.

The orchestra had the full complement of strings (first and second violins, violas, cellos, double

basses) and woodwinds (English and French horns, piccolo, tuba, trombones, cornet, trumpets, clarinets), brasses (flutes, oboes, bassoons and contrabassoons) and percussions (tubular bells, triangle, xylophone, castanets, cymbals, snare drum, timpani, gong, bass drum). The piano and a harp completed the ensemble.

The players merrily extolled

"heaven and earth beaming in joy" while the "intense burning of passion filled the passing of time." "Sunshine on the road" reached the evening's midpoint. The symphonic poem of "my China heart" was next, popularized during Great Britain's turnover of Hong Kong back to China in 1997.

Then the symphony went international. Strauss polka'd us down a German train station with an Alpine-clad trainmaster turning the stop/go red/green signs, and a

hunter actually crept at the back of the orchestra and blew a musket directly (and horrifyingly) at the audience before we went waltzing down the Blue Danube.

An intermission would have been scheduled in other programs at this point but with public transport ceasing operation after nine, the conductor exited briefly so the symphony chorale could come on stage, and allow the concert to finish well on time for the dash to the public buses. "Why not sing

to one's hearts' content?", they bellowed, as Harvard-educated Cao Ding of Shanghai led the symphony in extolling the virtues of big *Dong Bei* (northeast aka Manchuria).

Then the influence of the *Gong Chang Dang* (CPC) went fortissimo with "we are on the high road" as the *Xin nian hao* (Happy New Year) greeting, in a verve we last heard from the old Soviets of Ukraine. "Ode to our Motherland" was true to form that would not be missing in a state-orchestrated event. We started readying our jackets, hats, and gloves to brave the chill of the night.

There was the obligatory encore, so we got another Strauss. Suddenly, the audience came alive. They would not cease clapping after the piece. Conductor Cai Ding returned to the podium with a light French "Ha! Ha!" that delighted an awakened audience. The ensuing continuous applause made the conductor return to the podium and talk to his audience. The promised last piece from the French familiar *Cancan* got proletarian participation, leading to another piece offered as a freebie, with the whole house clapping to the last note at the conductor's command.

Thus concluded a people's concert and, in a frozen night late December in Dong Bei, it was a very appropriate ending.

Jaime Vergara, formerly a regular contributor in the Opinion section, will henceforth be an adjunct foreign correspondent in China for Saipan Tribune.



JAIME R. VERGARA

Tenors and a symphony chorale join the Liaoning Philharmonic on stage at the Grand Theatre belting out "being on the high road" on a Sunlight on the Road 2013 Concert.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMHC RFP 2012-008

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

To Conduct a Performance Assessment of NMHC Fiscal and Accounting Division by a CNMI Licensed Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) Firm

The Corporate Director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals from CNMI licensed CPA firms to conduct a performance assessment of NMHC's fiscal and accounting division. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-210).

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on **Monday, December 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Friday, December 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**, local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled "NMHC RFP 2012-008" for Performance Assessment of NMHC's Fiscal and Accounting Division to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 7, 2013.

The guidelines and specifications for this assessment may be picked up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI Holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone numbers (670) 234-6866/7689, fax 234-9021 or email jskaipat@nmhc.gov.net.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Admin Fees for the Section 8 Multifamily, Housing Choice Voucher, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director
Procurement & Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

Public Notice Request for Qualifications For the Provision of Mechanical Engineering Services

RFQ13-GOV-028

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth") are requesting qualifications ("RFQ") for the provision of mechanical engineering consulting services for the inspection, evaluation, and recommendation concerning the heating ventilating and air conditioning equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center ("CHC").

The Scope of Work associated with RFQ13-GOV-028 is available from the Office of Capital Improvement at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 (670) 664-2375. Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on three factors as identified in the table below.

Proposal Element	Ranking
Experience of the individuals who would be assigned to the project	60%
Proposed approach	40%

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 28, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). All proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ13-GOV-028 Healthcare Consulting Proposal in the required format and must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid ("Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to submit qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST), and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For firms located outside the CNMI, the submission must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Tuesday, January 08, 2013 and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., January 17, 2013 (ChST).

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

JSTA leads Garapan holiday cleanup

In the spirit of the holidays, the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners gave the gift of community service to clean up the main tourist district of Garapan on Dec. 22, 2012.

Seventy-five volunteers, including 24 children, joined the cleanup, held on both the roadside and beach from the Carolinian Affairs Office to Micro Beach. Groups joining JSTA included the Japan Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA also supported by providing water and arranging for trash pickup.

JSTA gave away Christmas gifts to the participating children. (MVA)

Seventy-five volunteers of the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its community partners made their annual cleanup of Garapan streets and beaches on Dec. 22, 2012, in preparation for holiday visitors.

MVA



MVA

Twenty-four children joined the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its community partners in their annual cleanup of Garapan streets and beaches on Dec. 22, 2012, in preparation for holiday visitors.



MVA

Children comprised a large number of a group led by Japan Saipan Travel Association and its community partners to clean up Garapan streets and beaches on Dec. 22, 2012, in preparation for holiday visitors.



BUILDING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

The CNMI Workforce Investment Agency is proud and congratulates its lead case manager, Frances Torres, seated third from right, for her most recent achievements as a Certified Job and Career Transition Coach and Certified Job and Career Development Coach. Both certifications are issued and awarded under the authority of the Career Planning and Adult Development Network. In the interest of building the CNMI's workforce to become educated and competitive, it is just as important for WIA to invest in the training and capacity building of its personnel. The value of this investment promotes and provides the CNMI better workforce.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Greetings to Wes Tomokane, who will be celebrating his birthday on Jan. 5! We love and miss you and wish we're there with you to celebrate your special day! Lots of love from Loleen, Esah, Mart, and family.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Jasmine Matsumoto, who is celebrating her special day today, Jan. 4, 2013. Wishing you all the best in the year to come. May your days be filled with sunshine and beautiful colors and may your nights be filled with comforting dreams and wishes to come. God bless! Greetings come from your Hernandez family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 47th birthday to Ronaldo Pascual! May you have more birthdays and more blessings to come! We love you so much! Greetings come from your wife Tessie and your kids: Precious, Aljo, Kristoffer, and Jade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Cliff averted, it’s on to the next fiscal crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—Onward to the next fiscal crisis. Actually, several of them, potentially. The New Year’s Day deal averting the “fiscal cliff” lays the groundwork for more combustible struggles in Washington over taxes, spending and debt in the next few months.

President Barack Obama’s victory on taxes this week was

the second, grudging round of piecemeal successes in as many years in chipping away at the nation’s mountainous deficits. Despite the length and intensity of the debate, the deal to raise the top income tax rate on families earning over \$450,000 a year—about 1 percent of households—and including only \$12 billion in

spending cuts turned out to be a relatively easy vote for many. This was particularly so because the alternative was to raise taxes on everyone.

But in banking \$620 billion in higher taxes over the coming decade from wealthier earners, Obama and his Republican rivals have barely touched deficits still expected to be in the

\$650 billion range by the end of his second term. And those back-of-the-envelope calculations assume policymakers can find more than \$1 trillion over 10 years to replace automatic across-the-board spending cuts known as a sequester.

“They didn’t do any of the tough stuff,” said Erskine Bowles, chairman of Obama’s 2010 deficit commission. “We’ve taken two steps now, but those two steps combined aren’t enough to put our fiscal

house in order.”

In 2011, the government adopted tighter caps on day-to-day operating budgets of the Pentagon and other cabinet agencies to save \$1.1 trillion over 10 years.

The measure passed Tuesday prevents middle-class taxes from going up while raising rates on higher incomes. It also blocks severe across-the-board spending cuts for two months, extends unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless for a

year, stops a 27 percent cut in Medicare fees paid to doctors and prevents a possible doubling of milk prices.

The alternative was going over the cliff, an economy-punching half-trillion-dollar combination of sweeping tax increases and spending cuts. Despite the deal, the government partially went over the brink anyway with the expiration of a two-year cut in Social Security payroll taxes of two percentage points.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Macau casino revenue in 2012 rose to \$38 billion

HONG KONG (AP)—Casino revenue in Macau climbed 13.5 percent last year to a record \$38 billion, as the Asian gambling hub reinforced its position as the world’s biggest gambling market. Gross revenue from Macau’s 35 casinos also hit a monthly record in December, rising 20 percent to 28.2 billion Macau patacas (\$3.5 billion), according to data posted on the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau on Wednesday. But gambling revenue growth eased off in 2012 from the year before, when it rocketed 42 percent to \$33.5 billion, as China’s economy slowed and wealthy mainland Chinese gamblers held back amid fears about a crackdown on corruption.

Oil, other commodities rise following budget deal

Prices for crude oil and most other commodities rose Wednesday after lawmakers cobbled together a last-minute budget agreement in Washington. Most energy products were higher. Commodi-

ties followed the stock market up after Congress passed a budget plan that would avert sweeping tax increases and cuts to government spending. That set off a rally in stocks and encouraged investors to shift money into other higher-risk assets like commodities. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 308 points, its biggest gain since December 2011. (AP)

US manufacturing expanded slightly last month

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. manufacturing grew slightly last month and factory hiring increased. The modest gain suggests the economy entered the new year with some momentum. The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday that its index of manufacturing activity rose in December to 50.7. That’s up from a reading of 49.5 in November, which was the lowest reading since July 2009, one month after the recession ended. A reading above 50 indicates growth, while a reading below signals contraction. The ISM is a trade group of purchasing managers.

Taxes rising for most people despite fiscal deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—While the tax package that Congress passed New Year’s Day will protect 99 percent of Americans from an income tax increase, most of them will still end up paying more federal taxes in 2013. That’s because the legislation did nothing to prevent a temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax from expiring. In 2012, that 2-percentage-point cut in the payroll tax was worth about \$1,000 to a worker making \$50,000 a year.

The Tax Policy Center, a non-partisan Washington research group, estimates that 77 percent of American households

will face higher federal taxes in 2013 under the agreement negotiated between President Barack Obama and Senate Republicans. High-income families will feel the biggest tax increases, but many middle- and low-income families will pay higher taxes too. Households making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will face an average tax increase of \$579 in 2013, according to the Tax Policy Center’s analysis. Households making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 will face an average tax increase of \$822.

“For most people, it’s just the payroll tax,” said Robertson Williams, a senior fellow at the Tax

Policy Center.

The tax increases could be a lot higher. A huge package of tax cuts first enacted under President George W. Bush was scheduled to expire Tuesday as part of the “fiscal cliff.” The Bush-era tax cuts lowered taxes for families at every income level, reduced investment taxes and the estate tax, and enhanced a number of tax credits, including a \$1,000-per-child credit.

The package passed Tuesday by the Senate and House extends most the Bush-era tax cuts for individuals making less than \$400,000 and married couples making less than \$450,000.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW13-IFB-002

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Construction of Coastal Road Improvement, Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after December 28, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on January 08, 2013 at 09:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Coastal Drive, Sadog Tasi Area, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 16, 2013 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2013, and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, February 04, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 25, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **(\$25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a)

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b)

Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1)

Cash

2)

US Government Securities

3)

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4)

Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5)

Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US \$100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO

Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN

Director Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-004

BEACH ROAD/TUN SEGUNDO TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Beach Road/Tun Segundo Traffic Signal System, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 21, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 9, 2013**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 23, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **January 29, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **January 29, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 29, 2013** and must be received no later than **February 7, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **February 12, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **February 1, 2013**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **(\$25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a)

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b)

Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1)

Cash

2)

US Gov't Securities

3)

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4)

Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5)

Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Ten (210)** working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO

Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

Director of Procurement & Supply

Nation

Boehner agrees to Sandy aid vote on Friday

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under intense pressure from angry Republicans, House Speaker John Boehner agreed Wednesday to a vote this week on aid for Superstorm Sandy recovery.

The speaker will schedule a vote Friday for \$9 billion for the national flood insurance program and another on Jan. 15 for a remaining \$51 billion in the package, Republican Rep. Peter King of New York said after emerging from a meeting with Boehner and GOP lawmakers from New York and New Jersey. The votes will be taken by the new Congress that will be sworn in Thursday.

King left the session with Boehner without the anger that led him to rip into the speaker Tuesday night.

"It was a very positive meeting," King said, adding that Boehner, R-Ohio, assured the lawmakers present that the money from the two House votes would roughly equal the \$60 billion package of aid that passed the Senate.

Since the votes will be taken in the new Congress, the Senate also will have to approve the legislation. If the House, as expected, approves the \$9 billion flood insurance proposal, the



In this Nov. 29, 2012, file photo, clean-up from superstorm Sandy continues on the site of a demolished home on the Rockaway peninsula in the Queens borough of New York.

Senate plans to move quickly in hopes of approving the aid on a voice vote Friday. The flood insurance money will help pay for

claims by home and business owners with coverage. Sandy was the most costly natural disaster since Hurricane Katrina

in 2005 and one of the worst storms ever in the Northeast.

"Getting critical aid to the victims of Hurricane Sandy should be the first priority in the new Congress, and that was reaffirmed today with members of the New York and New Jersey delegations," Boehner said in a joint statement with House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va.

Boehner's decision Tuesday night to cancel an expected vote on Sandy aid before Congress ends its current session provoked a firestorm of criticism

from New York, New Jersey and adjacent states where the money will go, including many lawmakers in his own party.

According to King, Boehner explained that after the contentious vote to avoid major tax increases and spending cuts called the "fiscal cliff," Boehner didn't think it was the right time to schedule the vote before the current Congress went out of business.

"What's done is done. The end result will be New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

will receive the funding they deserve. We made our position clear last night. That's in the past," King said.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., added, "We do believe we have an iron clad commitment."

The Senate approved a \$60.4 billion measure Friday to help with recovery from the October storm that devastated parts of New York, New Jersey and nearby states. The House Appropriations Committee has drafted a smaller, \$27 billion measure for immediate recovery needs and a second amendment for \$33 billion to meet longer-term needs. The \$9 billion in flood insurance money to be voted on Friday was originally in the \$27 billion measure. The votes on Jan. 15 will be for \$18 billion in immediate assistance and \$33 billion for longer-term projects, including projects to protect against future storms, King said.

Much of the money in the proposals is for immediate help for victims and other recovery and rebuilding efforts. The aid is intended to help states rebuild public infrastructure such as roads and tunnels and help thousands of people displaced from their homes.

Some \$5.4 million is for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, \$5.4 billion is to help transit agencies in New York and New Jersey rebuild and another \$3.9 billion is for the Housing and Urban Development Department's development fund to repair hospitals, utilities and small businesses.

On school tour, Newtown parents thank teachers

MONROE, Conn. (AP)—On a tour Wednesday of his daughter's new school, Vinny Alvarez took a moment to thank her third-grade teacher, who protected the class from a rampaging gunman by locking her classroom door and keeping the children in a corner.

Alvarez was one of many Sandy Hook Elementary School parents expressing gratitude to the teachers during an open house at their school in the neighboring town of Monroe, where their children are resuming classes Thursday for the first time since the Dec. 14 shooting that left 20 students and six educators dead.

Alvarez said each student received a gift box with a toy inside and he expressed thanks to the teacher, Courtney Martin, who kept her door locked until it was safe to leave the building. "Everybody there thanked her in their own way," he said.

Newtown Superintendent of Schools Janet Robinson announced that the Sandy Hook staff decided that the students' new school, the former Chalk Hill Middle School in Monroe, would be renamed Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"That's who they are. They're the Sandy Hook family," Robinson said after

a news conference at a park in Monroe a few miles from the school. She added that renaming the Chalk Hill school will allow staff and students to keep "their identity and a comfort level."

The school where the shootings occurred remains closed and guarded by police. Newtown officials haven't decided yet on the building's future.

The gunman, Adam Lanza, also killed his mother at the home they shared in Newtown before the school shootings, which ended when Lanza fatally shot himself as police arrived. Police haven't released any details about a motive.

Clinton leaves hospital after treatment for clot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was released from a New York hospital on Wednesday, three days after doctors discovered a blood clot in her head.

Clinton's medical team advised her Wednesday evening that she was making good progress on all fronts and said they are confident she will fully recover, said Clinton spokesman Philippe Reines. Doctors had been treating Clinton with blood thinners to dissolve a clot in a vein that runs through the space between the brain and the skull behind the right ear.

"She's eager to get back to the office," Reines said in a statement, adding that the secretary and her family are grateful for the excellent care she received at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Reines said details of when Clinton will return to work will be clarified in the coming days.

Clinton had been in the hospital since Sunday, when doctors discovered the clot on an MRI test during a follow-up exam stemming from a concussion she suffered earlier in December. While at home battling a stomach virus, Clinton had fainted, fallen and struck her

head, a spokesman said.

"Grateful my Mom discharged from the hospital and is heading home," the secretary's daughter, Chelsea, wrote on Twitter. "Even more grateful her medical team (is) confident she'll make a full recovery."

Earlier Wednesday, the State Department said Clinton had been speaking by telephone with staff in Washington and reviewing paperwork while in the hospital.

"She's been quite active on the phone with all of us," said State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland.

ACROSS THE NATION

State trying to make sperm donor pay child support

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas man who donated sperm to a lesbian couple after answering an online ad is fighting the state's efforts to suddenly force him to pay child support for the now 3-year-old girl, arguing that he and the women signed an agreement waiving all of his parental rights. The case hinges on the fact that no doctors were used for the artificial insemination. The state argues that because William Marotta didn't work through a clinic or doctor, as required by state law, he can be held responsible for about \$6,000 that the child's biological mother received through public assistance—as well as future child support. Angela de Rocha, spokeswoman for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, said that when a single mother seeks benefits for a child, it's routine for the department to try to determine the child's paternity and require the father to make support payments to lessen the potential cost to taxpayers.

Ariz. woman standing trial for boyfriend's killing

PHOENIX (AP)—Attorneys in the trial surrounding the 2008 gruesome killing of a suburban Phoenix man painted opposing pictures of the victim in opening statements Wednesday, with prosecutors describing him as a devout

Mormon and a "good man," and the defense saying he was violent and abusive. On trial in the case is 32-year-old Jodi Arias, who could become the fourth woman on Arizona's death row if convicted. She is accused of shooting Travis Alexander in the face, stabbing him 27 times and slitting his throat, then leaving him in a shower in his Mesa home in June 2008. Alexander's roommates found his body, and Arias was arrested the following month at her parents' northern California home.

'Fiscal cliff' standoff over, Obama back in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—A week after rushing to Washington to help end a tense, end-of-year standoff with Congress, President Barack Obama is back in Hawaii for vacation. The president's annual visit to the state where he was born and spent much of his childhood was interrupted as he and members of Congress contended with the unfinished business of the "fiscal cliff" crisis that threatened to throw the economy back into recession. The Republican-controlled House gave final legislative approval Tuesday night to a package that avoids income tax increases for most Americans and delays for two months billions in across-the-board spending cuts. Minutes later, Obama appeared in the White House briefing room to praise the deal in an eight-minute speech.

Asia

Myanmar military admits airstrikes against Kachin

Indian court may suspend lawmakers facing crimes

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian lawmakers facing sexual assault charges against women could be suspended from office if the country’s top court rules in favor of a petition submitted following a gang-rape and murder that shocked the country.

Six state lawmakers are facing rape prosecutions and two national parliamentarians are facing charges of crimes against women that fall short of rape, said Jagdeep S. Chhokar, an official with the Association for Democratic Reforms, which tracks political candidate’s criminal records.

The petition will be heard Thursday and comes as police prepare to formally charge six suspects in the gang-rape and killing of a student in the capital two weeks ago.

The Dec. 16 rape triggered outrage across the country and sparked demands for stronger laws, tougher police action against those accused of sexual assault and a sustained campaign to change society’s views on women.

As part of that campaign, Chief Justice Altamas Kabir agreed to hear a petition from retired government administrator Promilla Shanker asking the Supreme Court to suspend all lawmakers from the national and state legislatures who are facing prosecution for crimes against women.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar’s military acknowledged launching airstrikes against ethnic Kachin rebels in the north and said it captured a hilltop post from where the insurgents had attacked government supply convoys.

The statement broadcast on state television Wednesday contradicted government claims two days earlier that the military was not carrying out offensive

air attacks on the Kachin, raising questions about how much control the elected government of reformist President Thein Sein has over the army.

The United States said Wednesday the use of air power in Kachin state was “extremely troubling.” In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland urged the government and the Kachin rebel group to

cease their conflict and begin a real dialogue for peace.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on Myanmar’s authorities “to desist from any action that could endanger the lives of civilians living in the area or further intensify the conflict in the region,” U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said. Ban called on the government and rebels to work toward political reconciliation.

Myanmar state television, quoting the Defense Ministry, said the military on Sunday occupied a Kachin Independence Army hilltop post during a mopping-up operation of the area where attacks had been launched against supply convoys.

The government has been seeking to supply a base at Lajayang very close to KIA headquarters at Laiza, the rebel group’s last major outpost.

The government delivered an ultimatum to the Kachin to

clear a road by Christmas Day so it could supply its base. The Kachin rejected the ultimatum for fear of a government attack on their own outpost.

KIA spokesman La Nan charged Monday that the supplies being sent to government troops included ammunition as well as rice.

“We will obstruct any army convoy that carries arms and ammunition that will be used against us,” he said. “This is the nature of war.”

Filipino child dies from New Year’s Eve shooting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 7-year-old girl died Wednesday after being hit in the head by a stray bullet during New Year’s Eve revelry in the Philippines, heightening calls to halt one of Asia’s most violent celebrations of the new year.

Stephanie Nicole Ella was watching fireworks with her family in their working-class neighborhood in Manila’s suburban Caloocan city when she suddenly collapsed, blood spurting from her head. As she fought for her life in a government hospital, watched by her stunned parents, extensive media coverage of her ordeal turned her into a symbol of widespread concern over the violent celebrations.

Nearly 700 people were injured by firecrackers, including many illegally large types, and by celebratory gunfire on the days leading to the new year despite government warnings and a crackdown on prohibited firecrackers and gun firing. A boy also died when he was accidentally shot in the back with a homemade shotgun by an intoxicated man in Mandaluyong city

in the capital at the height of New Year’s revelry, police said, adding a suspect has been arrested.

At least 40 people were injured by stray bullets during the New Year revelries, according to police.

Stephanie, an award-winning student, “dreamed at a young age to become rich to help us,” her distraught father, Jay Ella, told reporters.

“This tragedy is a sobering reminder of how a reprehensible act from a thoughtless individual can rob our people, particularly our children, of their futures,”

President Benigno Aquino III’s spokesman, Edwin Lacierda, said in a statement. “For such a promising life to be lost in such a senseless way puts the burden on all of us to make certain that this tragedy is not repeated.”

Many Filipinos, largely influenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year’s celebrations drive away evil and misfortune. But they have carried that superstition to extremes, exploding dangerously huge firecrackers and firing guns to welcome the new year despite threats of arrest.

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO. LTD.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the position of:

Sales Representative

Associate’s degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with a minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are an advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than January 25, 2013.

We are Equal Opportunity Employer



EVENTS MANAGER

Our Resort is seeking a motivated and experienced Events Manager who will build and strengthen guest relationships while driving event sales and overseeing all event bookings, event staff, and event operations.

We are looking for an individual who is highly creative, articulate, outgoing, and with the ability to provide excellent customer service and staff management in a fun, fast-paced and exciting environment. The candidate must be flexible, friendly, and hardworking and also enjoy interacting with both children and adults. His/her past experience should demonstrate success in sales, creativity, drive and initiative.

As the Events Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with the Resort Management Team to create, host and promote special events
- Overseeing all event bookings and ensuring superior service to our guests
- Driving community relationships and event sales
- Performing the functions of event team members when necessary

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associate’s Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing or Tourism
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field
- Ability to develop and market new event ideas
- Ability to work nights, weekends, and holidays
- Organizational, follow-up, and multitasking skills are a must

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 30, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER (China Market)

Our Resort is looking for a Chinese-speaking (Mandarin) candidate with strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills who will help ensure the daily smooth running of the hotel by taking care of its guests and being a point of contact for, both Chinese guests and staff.

As the Guest Relations Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with the management team to provide focused attention on Chinese guests
- Promoting and developing loyalty from Chinese hotel guests by reacting positively to their individual needs and providing a high level of personalized guest service
- Direct any necessary changes to ensure seamless guest service
- Dealing with guest relation issues

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associate’s Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing or Tourism
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field/similar role or in a high volume hospitality environment at supervisory level or as a Front Office Supervisor
- Advance or native Chinese Mandarin language speaker and writer
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player



Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) SUPERVISOR, SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive experience at supervisory level and is exceptionally self-motivated. Must be able to supervise sales efforts to achieve and exceed assigned sales goals. Must be skilled at interpreting and communicating company objectives in order to maximize team sales revenue. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Mandarin Chinese. Able to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in retail sales. Must be able to provide exemplary customer service, have a team player mindset and an exceptional cash handling accuracy. Effective communication skills, high energy level, patience, stress tolerance and persuasiveness are essential competencies. Must be able to read and write in English and Mandarin Chinese. Must be able to work a varied schedule including weekends and late night shifts.

(3) MASSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation

invites qualified US workers to apply for the following:

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 6 years of progressive airline passenger service and supervisory experience. Supervises passenger service agents and liaises with customer airlines to resolve concerns regarding flight handling operations. Serves as Ground Security Coordinator and trainer for various airline passenger service systems. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargo according to IATA, FAA, TSA, USPS, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work projects as directed by Manager. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargo. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo handling equipment. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs. Must be proficient in the use of AFIS System or 360.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment

AS degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years progressive experience as licensed A&P (airframe & power plant) Technician. Oversees the activities of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and supervises all aircraft repairs and services. Must possess a current US FAA A&P License. Must be certified in various aircraft-type maintenance. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, local airport and airline regulations.

Manager, Flight Operations & Ramp Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 8 years of progressive experience in airline ramp operations and flight dispatch. Directs and coordinates activities of the ramp and flight dispatch operations in accordance with the airline policy and FAA, TSA, local airport regulations and established company policies and procedures. Must be US FAA licensed as an Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircrafts. Must be able to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)

AA/AS degree with 4 years progressive experience in load planning with airline specific certification as load planner. Ensures aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements ensuring that aircraft’s operational and structural limitation are not exceeded. Prepares monthly flight activity reports. Must be able to perform manual weight and balance calculations.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 8, 2013

Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

World

UN: More than 60K dead in Syrian civil war

BEIRUT (AP)—The United Nations gave a grim new count Wednesday of the human cost of Syria's civil war, saying the death toll has exceeded 60,000 in 21 months—far higher than recent estimates by anti-regime activists.

The day's events illustrated the escalating violence that has made recent months the deadliest of the conflict: As rebels pressed a strategy of attacking airports and pushing the fight closer to President Bashar Assad's stronghold in Damascus, the government responded with deadly airstrikes on restive areas around the capital.

A missile from a fighter jet



This citizen journalism image taken from video provided by Shaam News Network, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a wounded man being pulled from the site of a Syrian government airstrike on a gas station in the eastern Damascus suburb of Mleiha, Syria, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013.

hit a gas station in the suburb of Mleiha, killing or wounding dozens of people who were trapped in burning piles of debris, activists said.

Gruesome online video showed incinerated victims—one still sitting astride a motorcycle—or bodies torn apart.

"He's burning! The guy is burning!" an off-camera voice screamed in one video over a flaming corpse.

It was unclear if the government had a military strategy for attacking the gas station. At least one of the wounded wore a military-style vest often used by rebel fighters. Human rights groups and anti-regime activists say Assad's forces often make little effort to avoid civilian casualties when bombing rebel areas.

Syria's conflict began in March 2011 with protests calling for political change but has evolved into a full-scale civil war.

As the rebels have grown more organized and effective, seizing territory in the north and establishing footholds around Damascus, the government has stepped up its use of airpower, launching daily airstrikes. The escalating violence has sent the death toll soaring.

The U.N.'s new count of more than 60,000 deaths since the start of the conflict is a third higher than recent estimates by anti-regime activists. One group, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, says more than 45,000 people have been killed. Other groups have given similar tolls.

Egypt panel implicates Mubarak, military in deaths

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian fact-finding mission determined that Hosni Mubarak watched the uprising against him unfold through a live TV feed at his palace, despite his later denial that he knew the extent of the protests and crackdown against them, a member of the mission said Wednesday.

The mission's findings increase pressure for a retrial of the 84-year old ousted president, who is already serving a life sentence for the deaths of 900 protesters. But its report could hold both political gains and dangers for his successor, Mohammed Morsi. A new prosecution of Mubarak would be popular, since many Egyptians were angered that he was convicted only for failing to stop the killing of protesters, rather than for ordering the crackdown.

But the report also implicates the military and security officials in protester deaths. Any move to prosecute them could spark a backlash from powerful generals and others who still hold positions under Morsi's government.

Rights activists said they would watch carefully how aggressively Morsi pursues the evidence, detailed by a fact-finding mission he commissioned.

"This report should be part of the democratic transformation of Egypt and restructuring of security agencies," Ahmed Ragheb, a member of the commission and a rights lawyer, told The Associated Press. "At the end of the day, there will be no national reconciliation without revealing the truth, and ensuring accountability."

Morsi, an Islamist from the Muslim Brotherhood, asked the commission to send the report to the chief prosecutor Talaat Abdullah to investigate new evidence, his office said Wednesday.

Morsi recently appointed Abdullah to replace a Mubarak holdover who many considered an obstacle to strongly prosecuting former regime officials. Some judges criticized the appointment as a political move to continue to wield leverage over the prosecutor post.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ivory Coast stampede survivors blame barricades

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Survivors of a stampede in Ivory Coast that killed 61 people, most of them children and teenagers, after a New Year's Eve fireworks display said Wednesday that makeshift barricades stopped them from moving along a main boulevard, causing the crush of people. Ivory Coast police said unknown people put tree trunks across the Boulevard de la Republique where the trampling took place. "For security, because there were so many important people at the event, we closed certain main streets," said a police officer who was overheard briefing Ivory Coast President Alassane Outtara on the incident. The police officer said the tree trunks were put out unofficially by people who are not known.

Venezuela opposition: Chavez secrecy feeds rumors

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's opposition demanded that the government reveal specifics of President Hugo Chavez's condition Wednesday, criticizing secrecy surrounding the ailing leader's health more than three weeks after his cancer surgery in Cuba. Opposition coalition leader Ramon Guillermo Aveledo said at a news conference that the information provided by government officials "continues to be insufficient." Chavez has not been seen or heard from since the Dec. 11 operation, and Vice President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday said the president's condition remained "delicate" due to complications from a respiratory infection.

In Loving Memory of

†Manuel Cabrera Sablan

December 25, 1948 - December 30, 2012

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his wife, children and grandchildren

Wife: Consolacion DLG. Cepeda Sablan

Children and Family:

Raymond C. Sablan/ Mares Mers (Raymond Nivon II); **Michael C. Sablan/** Connie Pinaula (Michelle, Sophia); **Gregory Thomas C. Sablan/** Anne Marie Delemel (Gregory Manuel Jr., GlendaLynn); **Anne Isabel C. Sablan** (Roanne Isa, Ron Napu); **Manuel Jr. C. Sablan/** Thelma M. (Alannah); **Sherry Lynn C. Sablan-Turner/** Christopher Ryan Turner (Christopher Bailey, Ryana Lynn Connie).

He will also be missed by his Brother, Sisters and In-laws:

Maria M. Sablan, Ana and Henry T. Indalecio, Rita DLG. Sablan, Juana S. Muna, Natividad S. and Raphael DLG Demapan, Matilde S. Taisacan, Raphael Mettao, Maria S. and Juan L. Ada, Alfredo Gonzales, Isabel S. and Melchor U. Maratita, Pedro and Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita S. and Jose Castro, Bernadita S. and Isidro T. Cabrera, Grace C. Sablan.

Frank and Fe Cepeda, Carmen C. Reyes, Dolores DLG. Cepeda, Roman and Lydia Cepeda, Lutmina and Helas Decherong, Margarita S. Cepeda, Soledad and Jose Ocampo and Vicente DLG. Cepeda.

He is also survived by numerous relatives, friends, nieces and nephews.

In His new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Tomas Palacios Sablan, Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan

Parents In Law: Gregorio Torres Cepeda, Ana DLG. Cepeda

Brothers, Sisters and In Laws:

Soledad S. and Francisco C. Basa, Vicente Sablan, Faustina S. and Fernando M. Benavente, Gregorio and Victoria M. Sablan, Jesus Sablan, Daniel T. Muna, Martin M. Taisacan, Rita S. Mettao, Thomas and Francisca M. Sablan, Maria DLR. Gonzales, and Joaquin Sablan.

Lorenzo, Jesus and Merced DLG. Cepeda and Jose M. Reyes.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 07, 2013. He will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to San Antonio Church. Responso Service will be at 8:00 am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am. Interment Service will be at 11:30 am at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in Prayers,

Consolacion "Connie" DLG. Cepeda Sablan
Children and Families

Off The Wall

Twin mothers in Ohio give birth the same day

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Aiden and Donavyn didn't wait until New Year's Day to come screaming into the world, but the circumstances of their births

are still pretty special: The babies were born about two hours apart to Ohio mothers who are identical twins.

The *Akron Beacon Journal* reports

that the 19-year-old mothers—Aimee and Ashlee Nelson—weren't raised to do things alike and did not plan the births to come at the same time. In fact,

their due dates were about a week apart.

Aimee's son, Donavyn Scott Bratten, was born just after noon on the last day of 2012. Ashlee's son, Aiden

Lee Alan Dilts, made his appearance at about 2 p.m.

They were delivered by the same doctor at Summa Akron City Hospital.

Wis. couple says pet chicken alerted them to house blaze

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A Wisconsin couple says clucks, not fire trucks, helped them escape a blaze at their home.

Dennis Murawska, 59, said a pet chicken named Cluck Cluck woke his wife Susan Cotey, 52, with loud clucking from its cage in the basement two floors below about 6:15 a.m. Thursday. The couple's

two cats also were running around the main floor.

Murawska said he had been half awake but didn't know about the fire because the smoke alarms hadn't gone off. He realized something was wrong when his wife got up.

"The chicken gets quite vocal when she gets excited," he said.

Cluck Cluck came from a nearby farm in Alma Center, about 135 miles east of Minneapolis, Murawska said. When the chicken began wandering over to his house, his neighbor said he could kill it because it wasn't producing any eggs. But Murawska felt sorry for Cluck Cluck because she had

a mutated foot and decided to keep her. He fed the bird and built a coop, and then his wife let Cluck Cluck into the basement on cold nights.

"I spent way more money than I ever should've," Murawska said by telephone. "I guess it paid off."

The couple escaped, and

firefighters found the chicken in its cage and one of the cats alive in the basement. Another cat hasn't been found and is presumed dead, Murawska said. The couple and their surviving cat checked into a Black River Falls hotel, while Cluck Cluck is staying with the neighbor who used to own her.

Alma Center Fire Chief Jeff

Gaede said the fire started in the attic of the attached garage and was not suspicious. The house was a total loss, but it could have been worse—if not for the chicken.

"We are used to hearing about a dog or cat or something, but we never heard of a chicken waking up a resident for a fire," Gaede said. "That's pretty amazing."



AP

In this photo provided by Barb Murray, Brad Krueger of Alma Center, Wis., holds his neighbors' chicken, Cluck Cluck, on Friday, Dec. 28, 2012.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pa. railroad calendar delivered 63 years late

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)—A northeastern Pennsylvania newspaper has just received a calendar to help ring in the new year—except the year is 1950.

Scranton's *The Times-Tribune* reports a mail carrier delivered it 63 years late without explanation on Friday. The large tube contained a 1950 Pennsylvania Railroad calendar addressed to James Flanagan, former general manager of The Scranton Times. The calendar includes a holiday greeting from a railroad executive dated December 1949. Flanagan died that month. A U.S. Postal Service spokesman says lost mail is sometimes found when a machine is dismantled or office space is renovated.

Vultures pick at visitors' cars in Fla. Everglades

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)—Visitors to parts of Everglades National Park are getting tarps and bungee cords to make their vehicles less delectable to vultures. Migrating vultures have developed a habit of ripping off windshield wipers, sunroof seals, and other rubber and vinyl vehicle parts. Visitors to the park's Homestead and Flamingo entrances are loaned "anti-vulture kits" to protect their vehicles. Park wildlife biologist Skip Snow tells *The Miami Herald* that the vultures are migrating as normal. It's just not clear why the birds are picking at parked cars and trucks. Park employees have tried to scare away the vultures, but nothing has worked. Park Superintendent Dan Kimball says complaints about the vultures have declined since employees began distributing the tarps and bungee cords last year.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Ronald Henry Sablan DelRosario
 Lovingly known as "Ron"
 July 09, 1951 – December 28, 2012

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: †Juan DelRosario
 †Francisco Arriola Manahane
 †Magdalena Sablan Manahane

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Son: John Michael A. DelRosario/
 Lerina Villazon & Children

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
John S. DelRosario Jr./Julie P. and Children
Francisco S. DelRosario and Children
Herbert S. DelRosario/Rose D. and Children
Manuel S. Manahane/Flora H. and Children
David S. Manahane/Shirley and Children
Emilio S. Manahane/Kumiko and Children
Luis S. Manahane and Children
Maria M. Mickelson/John Mickelson and Children
Ramon S. Manahane/Emerfina J. and Children
Jose S. Manahane/Bertha DLC. and Children
Francisca M. Colvin/Russel Colvin and Children
Rita M. Taitano/Canice Taitano and Children
Anthony S. Manahane/Francisca T. and Children

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every evening from Wednesday, January 2nd to Friday, January 4th at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 05, 2013. His remains will lie in state at the Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Holy Rosary will be recited at 8:00 am followed by Responso services at 09:15 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Jude Church followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS
 THE FAMILY**

Science & Technology

LG beats its rivals in the race to sell new OLED TVs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—LG Electronics Inc. started taking pre-orders on Wednesday for the world's first big TVs that use an advanced display technology promising startlingly clear images on wafer-thin screens.

The South Korean company said the 55-inch TVs, which use a technology called "OLED" and have a price tag of 11 million won (\$10,335), will be delivered to buyers in its home market next month. The new TVs will be available in North America, Europe and the rest of Asia before the end of March, LG said in a statement.

While LG becomes the world's first company to bring a big-screen next-generation TV to market, it's far from clear whether the bet will pay off because of the high cost and difficulties of manufacturing, cutthroat competition from rivals and diminishing returns from incremental increases in image quality.

TVs using OLEDs, or organic light-emitting diodes, feature images with enhanced clarity, deeper color saturation and sharper contrast than liquid crystal display TVs.

The advanced, energy-efficient display technology makes it possible to manufacture thinner televisions: LG's model is just 4



In this photo released by LG Electronics on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, models pose with LG Electronics' organic light-emitting diode (OLED) television in Seoul, South Korea.

millimeters thick.

LG's announcement is the culmination of a race by electronics makers to be the first to deliver the next-generation sets that began in 2007 when Sony Corp. showed off the world's first OLED TV, which had an 11-inch screen. But the Japanese company failed to follow up with a bigger display.

While OLED panels are more widely used in mobile screens, mass producing large panels is still tough because of technological challenges. Jang Moon-ik, director of LG's TV busi-

ness, said in an interview last year that only two companies in the world have a capacity to make large screen OLED TVs: LG and rival South Korean company Samsung Electronics.

Even though LG and Samsung touted OLEDs as the future of television, both failed to deliver them to the market in the fourth quarter of 2012 as promised due to manufacturing challenges.

Samsung declined to comment on the availability of its OLED TVs, saying making perfect products is more important than the

launch schedule.

Grabbing the title of the first OLED TV maker is much more symbolic than practical because initial production numbers will likely be small.

Manufacturing big-screen new TVs requires billions in investments to upgrade factories. South Korean TV makers hope cutting-edge display technology can help offset falling TV prices and differentiate their products from fast-growing Chinese rivals.

Japanese companies, which

dominated the global TV market before the ascent of Samsung and LG, are struggling to come up with their own next-generation TV sets to avoid falling further behind but don't have enough

cash to invest in new technology. Last year, Sony and Panasonic announced a partnership to jointly produce large OLED panels but have not made any further announcements.



FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

†**Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Sr.**
"Bano"

Invite all our family, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of my beloved husband, our father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Daily masses will be offered at **6:00 a.m.** at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan and nightly rosary will be prayed at the family residence in As Teo at **7:00 p.m.** Mass of Intention and rosary will commence on **Sunday, January 6, 2013 through January 14, 2013.**

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Dolores Duenas Babauta,
Children & Families

Helpware: How to protect your photos

By **NOAH MATTHEWS**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you are a professional photographer, or you just post photos on Facebook and the like, you're probably aware that anyone can hijack your photos and call them their own. Which is why pros superimpose a text or image watermark on their photos. Amateurs who take cute photos of their kids and post them online should be putting watermarks on their photos, too.

Bytescout Watermarking, a free program for Windows PCs, will put any kind of watermark

on your photos. If you want to superimpose your name and copyright on the face of the photo, this program will do it, easily, quickly and efficiently. You can get a preview of your watermark before you print it or post it online. My personal watermark is "Noah hates thieves. This is my photo, not yours." You get my drift.

The whole process is as simple as calling up a photo, choosing what style of watermark you want, adding text, and you're on your way. If you don't like what you see, you can start over.

Amateurs might be satisfied with the free version, but if you

see yourself as a serious photographer—one who, for example, takes wedding photos—you will want the Pro version. It gives you all kinds of text effects, allows you to add watermarks to many photos at the same time, and resize photos. It will even allow you to place watermarks on videos. At \$39, it's a bargain. That entitles you to a year of updates, email tech support and tutorials.

Bytescout Watermarking can be downloaded or purchased at <http://bytescout.com/products/enduser/watermarking/watermarkingpro.html>.

Printed books suffers as e-book reading jumps

By **DAWN C. CHMIELEWSKI**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO—Surging sales of tablet computers are driving a fundamental change in how Americans read books.

Twenty-three percent of Americans age 16 and older say they have read an electronic book in the past year, according to a new survey from the Pew Research Center. That's up from 16 percent a year ago.

At the same time, the number of those who read a printed book in the past 12 months fell to 67 percent—a decline of 5 percentage points.

The rise in e-book reading coincides with an increase in the number of people who own tablet computers or dedicated e-

readers such as Amazon's Kindle or Barnes & Noble's Nook.

A quarter of all Americans age 16 and up own an Apple Inc. iPad, Kindle Fire, Samsung Galaxy Tab or other tablet computer, Pew reports, an increase from 10 percent in 2011. The number of people who own an e-book reader rose to 19 percent from 10 percent.

"We are still in the early stages of the transition," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet Project. "It's a big deal for the publishing industry, in the same way that the transition to digital news was a big deal for the newspaper business in the late '90s, and the same way Napster was a big deal to the music industry in the early 2000s."

Researcher NPD Group

estimates that 33 million tablet computers have been sold through November of 2012. Devices with screens smaller than 8 inches—including the Apple iPad Mini and smaller versions of the Kindle Fire and Google's Nexus tablet—seem well suited to reading, said NPD analyst Stephen Baker.

With vigorous sales of tablets this holiday season, Baker predicted "the beginning of the end" for traditional e-readers.

Pew's survey found that those most likely to have read an e-book had a college degree, lived in a household earning more than \$75,000 and ranged in age from 30 to 49. The findings were based on a survey of 2,252 Americans age 16 and older from Oct. 15 to Nov. 10.

Life & Style

‘Tennessee Waltz’ singer Patti Page dies at 85

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Patti Page, the “Singing Rage” who stumbled across “Tennessee Waltz” and made it one of the best-selling recordings ever, has died. She was 85.

Page died on New Year’s Day in Encinitas, California, according to publicist Schatzi Hageman.

Page was the top-selling female singer of the 1950s with more than 100 million records sold. Her most enduring songs remain “Tennessee Waltz,” one of two songs the state of Tennessee has officially adopted, and “(How Much Is That) Doggie in the Window.”

“I was a kid from Oklahoma who never wanted to be a singer, but was told I could sing,” she said in a 1999 interview. “And things snowballed.”

She created a distinctive sound for the music industry in 1947 by overdubbing her own voice when she didn’t have enough money to hire backup singers for the single, “Confess.” She went on to score sell 15 gold records and three gold albums with 24 songs in the top 10, including four that reached No. 1.

She was popular in pop music and country and became the first singer to have television programs on all three major networks, including “The Patti Page Show” on ABC.

In 1999, after 51 years of performing, Page won her first Grammy for traditional pop vocal performance for “Live at Carnegie Hall—The 50th Anniversary Concert.” Page was planning to attend a special ceremony on Feb. 9 in Los Angeles where she was to receive a lifetime achievement award from



This 1958 file photo shows singer Patti Page. AP

The Recording Academy.

Page was born Nov. 8, 1927, as Clara Ann Fowler in Claremore, Oklahoma. The family of three boys and eight girls moved a few years later to nearby Tulsa.

She got her stage name working at radio station KTUL, which had a 15-minute program sponsored by Page Milk Co. The regular Patti Page singer left and was replaced by Page, who took the name with her on the road to stardom.

Page was discovered by Jack Rael, a band leader who was making a stop in Tulsa in 1946 when he heard Page sing on the radio. Rael called KTUL asking where the broadcast originated. When told Page was a local singer, he quickly arranged an interview and abandoned his career to be Page’s manager.

A year later she signed a contract with Mercury Records and began appearing in major nightclubs in the Chicago area.

Her first major hit was “With My Eyes Wide Open

I’m Dreaming,” but she got noticed a few years earlier in 1947 with “Confess.”

The arrangement of “Confess” required an echo effect from backup singers, but since Rael and Page were footing the bill, they decided Page would do all the voices by overdubbing.

“We would have to pay for all those expenses because Mercury felt that I had not as yet received any national recognition that would merit Mercury paying for it,” Page once said.

“Confess” was enough of a hit that Rael convinced Mercury to let Page try full four-part harmony by overdubbing. The result was “With My Eyes Wide Open I’m Dreaming.” The label read, “Vocals by Patti Page, Patti Page, Patti Page and Patti Page.”

“Tennessee Waltz,” her biggest selling record, was a fluke.

Because Christmas was approaching, Mercury Records wanted Page to record “Boogie Woogie Santa Claus” in 1950.

Page and Rael got hold of “Tennessee Waltz,” convinced that a pop artist could make a smash hit out of it. Mercury agreed to put it on the B-side of the Christmas song.

“Mercury wanted to concentrate on a Christmas song and they didn’t want anything with much merit on the flip side,” Page said. “They didn’t want any disc jockeys to turn the Christmas record over. The title of that great Christmas song was “Boogie Woogie Santa Claus,” and no one ever heard of it.”

“Tennessee Waltz” became the first pop tune that crossed over into a big country hit.

The waltz was on the charts for 30 weeks, 12 of them in the top 10, and eventually sold more than 10 million copies, behind only “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby at the time.

She went on to record such hits as “Doggie in the Window,” “Mockin’ Bird Hill,” “Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte,” and “Allegheny Moon.” She teamed with George Jones on “You Never Looked That Good When You Were Mine.”

In films Page co-starred with Burt Lancaster in his Oscar-winning appearance of “Elmer Gantry,” and she appeared in “Dondi” with David Janssen and in “Boy’s Night Out” with James Garner and Kim Novak.

She also starred on stage in the musical comedy “Annie Get Your Gun.”

She received the Pioneer Award by the Academy of Country Music in 1980 and also was elected to CMA’s board of directors. She also is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

In her later career, Page and husband Jerry Filiciotto spent half the year living in Southern California and half in an 1830s farmhouse in New Hampshire. He died in 2009.

Page is survived by her son, Daniel O’Curran, daughter Kathleen Ginn and sister Peggy Layton.

‘Lincoln,’ ‘Les Miz,’ ‘Argo’ earn producers honors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Civil War saga “Lincoln,” the musical “Les Miserables” and the Osama bin Laden thriller “Zero Dark Thirty” are among the nominees announced Wednesday for the top honor from the Producers Guild of America.

Other best-picture contenders are the Iran hostage-crisis thriller “Argo”; the low-budget critical favorite “Beasts of the Southern Wild”; the slave-turned-bounty-hunter saga “Django Unchained”; the shipwreck story “Life of Pi”; the first-love tale “Moonrise Kingdom”; the lost-souls romance “Silver Linings Playbook”; and the James Bond adventure “Skyfall.”

Walt Disney dominated the guild’s animation category

with three of the five nominees: “Brave,” “Frankenweenie” and “Wreck-It Ralph.” The other nominees are Focus Features’ “ParaNorman” and Paramount’s “Rise of the Guardians.”

Along with honors from other Hollywood professional groups such as actors, directors and writers guilds, the producer prizes help sort out contenders for the Academy Awards. Those nominations come out Jan. 10.

The guild, an association of Hollywood producers, hands out its 24th annual prizes Jan. 26. The big winner often goes on to claim the best-picture honor at the Oscars, which follow on Feb. 24.

Previously announced nominees by the Producers Guild for

best documentary are “A People Uncounted,” “The Gatekeepers,” “The Island President,” “The Other Dream Team” and “Searching for Sugar Man.”

Other nominees:

■ TV drama series: “Breaking Bad,” “Downton Abbey,” “Game of Thrones,” “Homeland,” “Mad Men.”

■ TV comedy series: “30 Rock,” “The Big Bang Theory,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Louie,” “Modern Family.”

■ Long-form television: “American Horror Story,” “The Dust Bowl,” “Game Change,” “Hatfields & McCoy,” “Sherlock.”

■ Non-fiction television: “American Masters,” “Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations,” “Deadliest Catch,” “Inside the

Actors Studio,” “Shark Tank.”

■ Live entertainment and talk television: “The Colbert Report,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” “Real Time with Bill Maher,” “Saturday Night Live.”

■ Competition television: “The Amazing Race,” “Dancing with the Stars,” “Project Runway,” “Top Chef,” “The Voice.”

■ Sports program: “24/7,” “Catching Hell,” “The Fight with Jim Lampley,” “On Freddie Roach,” “Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel.”

■ Children’s program: “Good Luck Charlie,” “iCarly,” “Phineas and Ferb,” “Sesame Street,” “The Weight of the Nation for Kids: The Great Cafeteria Takeover.”

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Texas Chainsaw 3D


Friday and Saturday	1:20	7:20	10:55
Sunday	1:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		7:20	

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
 Genre: Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Leatherface and his cannibalistic clan are back and this time in 3D with this Nu Image/Lionsgate production. John Luessenhop (Takers) helms.

	Texas Chainsaw 2D	
	Friday and Saturday	4:15
	Sunday	4:15
	Mon through Thurs	4:15
	Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood Genre: Horror • Rated R	

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A movie poster for 'Django Unchained' featuring Jamie Foxx as Django and Leonardo DiCaprio as Calvin Candie. The poster has a dark, gritty aesthetic with the title 'Django' prominently displayed at the bottom.

Django Unchained

Friday and Saturday	12:45	4:10	7:35	10:00
Sunday	12:45	4:10	7:35	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:35	


Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz
Genre: Western • Rated R

Synopsis
Quentin Tarantino heads to western territory with Django Unchained, one part homage to Italian spaghetti westerns and the other, a spin on race relations in the South.

Parental Guidance

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei
 Genre: Comedy • Rated PG



Jack Reacher

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	


Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall
 Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13

	<h1>This Is 40</h1>				
Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	10:15	
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25		
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25		
Cast: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Jason Segel, Megan Fox Genre: Comedy • Rated R					

Monsters Inc. 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G




The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday and Saturday	12:45	7:45
Sunday	12:45	7:45
Mon through Thurs		7:45

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage

Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D		
	Friday and Saturday	4:20	10:10
	Sunday	4:20	
	Mon through Thurs	4:20	
	Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13		

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Photographer killed while shooting Bieber's car

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber on Wednesday said his prayers were with the family of a photographer who was struck and killed while trying to take pictures of the pop star's Ferrari sports car along a freeway in Los Angeles.

Bieber was not in the car at the time. The name of the 29-year-old photographer, who was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after the accident Tuesday afternoon, was not released.

"Hopefully this tragedy will finally inspire meaningful legislation and whatever other necessary steps to protect the lives and safety of celebrities, police officers, innocent public bystanders, and the photographers themselves," Bieber said in a statement released by Island



In this Nov. 18, 2012 file photo, Justin Bieber arrives at the 40th Anniversary American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Def Jam Music Group.

A friend of Bieber's was behind the wheel of the Ferrari on

Tuesday when a California Highway Patrol officer pulled it over for speeding, authorities said.

The photographer stood on a freeway railing to shoot photographs of the traffic stop, and he was struck when he ran across the street to his own car, authorities said.

The driver of the car that hit the photographer, a 69-year-old Los Angeles woman, was not believed to be at fault for the accident and was unlikely to be cited, police said.

A 2010 California law toughened punishment for those who drive dangerously in pursuit of photos for commercial gain. The law was prompted by the experiences of Jennifer Aniston, who told a lawmaker about being unable to drive away after she was surrounded by paparazzi on the Pacific Coast Highway.

Hilary Mantel wins best-novel Costa Book Award

LONDON (AP)—British writer and two-time Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel has been named novelist of the year at Britain's Costa Book Awards for "Bring Up the Bodies."

Mantel's achievement Wednesday for her blood-soaked Tudor saga makes her the first author to win both the Costa novel award and Booker Prize in the same year.

The Costa Book Awards carry a 5,000 pound (\$8,125) prize and are given in five categories: novel, first novel, biography, poetry and children's book.

Other winners included Scottish poet Kathleen Jamie for "The Overhaul," and Francesca Segal for her first-novel "The Innocents," which is set in a tightly-knit Jewish community in northwest London and mod-

eled on Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence."

"Dotter of Her Father's Eyes," written by Mary Talbot and drawn by her husband, Bryan, won the biography category, marking the first time a graphic work has won a Costa award. Severely dyslexic writer and illustrator Sally Gardner won the children's book prize for her fifth novel, "Maggot Moon."

The five winners are now shortlisted for the 25,000 pound grand prize of 2012 Costa Book of the Year which will be announced Jan. 29 in London.

The awards, known until 2006 as the Whitbread Book Awards, were established in 1971 and recognize "outstanding and enjoyable books" by writers based in the U.K. and Ireland.

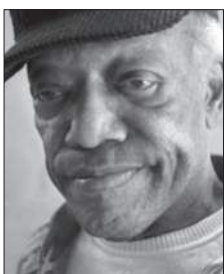
Singer Bobby Womack diagnosed with Alzheimer's

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer Bobby Womack has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member told the BBC in a recent interview the diagnosis came after he began having difficulty remembering his songs and the names of people he's worked with.

A spokeswoman did not immediately reply to a message left by The Associated Press.

The soul singer has cut a wide path through the mu-



Womack

sic business as a performer and songwriter in his 50-year career. He recently launched another act with "The Bravest Man in the Universe," the Damon Albarn-produced comeback album that made several best-of lists.

Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disease characterized by memory loss. It's the latest health problem for the 68-year-old singer, who's also been fighting cancer and other maladies.

Pop star Rain to be punished over meeting actress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean military will punish pop star Rain for meeting with a top actress while on duty during his mandatory military service, the Defense Ministry said Thursday.

Paparazzi photos showing Rain meeting with Kim Tae-hee raised questions that highly sought-after entertainers may receive special favors during their military service. The ministry denies Rain has received special treatment.

Rain, an "entertainment soldier," met with Kim at least three times late last year, ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok



Rain

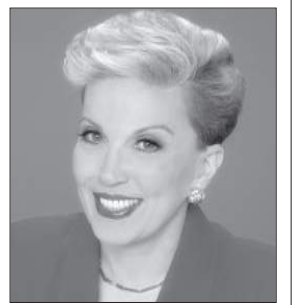
said in a briefing. They occurred even though Rain is not allowed to have such private meetings while outside his base for official duties like recording and performing.

The spokesman did not say what kind of punishment Rain would be decided when the ministry meets next week. However, he said it was unlikely to be a brief lockup in a military jail, one of more serious penalties for South Korean soldiers that can delay their discharge.

All able-bodied South Korean men must serve about two to three years in the military, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mom using restaurant table to change baby takes the cake

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My wife and I run a restaurant in a small town. Recently, my wife came home on my day off and told me that during the lunch hour, one of our servers had come into the kitchen and announced that they'd need extra sanitizer on table 29 because a mother was changing her baby on it!

What has happened in our society that people don't understand that this is unsanitary and rude? Had I been there, I don't know that I could have kept a civil tongue, and I feel like people today regard my disgust as unreasonable. Is there something I'm missing here?

Dear Abby

CAFE CRAZY

DEAR "CRAZY": I don't know who you have been talking to, but your disgust is NOT "unreasonable." What that mother was missing was common sense and courtesy for those around her. I agree that changing a baby on a restaurant table was out of the ballpark—particularly if a changing table was available in the women's restroom of your cafe. (I'm assuming there is one, but if there isn't, the situation should be immediately rectified.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Gene," and I were married for five years until our divorce six months ago. We still live together and are dating each other. We had so many issues, I felt there needed to be a fresh start, including filing for divorce and living apart.

Now that we have started over, moved away from our hometown and gotten rid of several "friends," our issues are gone and we're financially stable. In fact, our relationship is better than ever.

Since things are now worked out, I'd like us to get remarried. I told him before our divorce that I hoped we could resolve things and marry again. Now he's not sure, because he says if we got divorced again, he couldn't bear the hurt. He says he still doesn't understand why our "fresh start" included a divorce.

Abby, we love each other. We want to be together forever and have children. I don't want to be dating my ex-husband indefinitely. Do you have advice for us?

GOING NOWHERE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR GOING NOWHERE: I sure do. In the interest of solidifying your fresh start, you and Gene should sign up for some premarital counseling. If you do, you may be able to help him understand why you felt the way you did. With counseling, you can sure that your problems are fully resolved, and it may reassure him that this time there won't be another divorce. If you are thinking about a religious ceremony, the officiant may even require it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister and mother went to a movie recently. My sister became concerned that her husband and kids were locked out of the house, so she quickly took out her phone and texted her husband. It took less than 30 seconds.

A minute later a large man came down the stairs of the theater, got right in her face and began berating her—telling her she was rude for pulling out her phone. It was so upsetting that she and Mom got up and left.

I understand that she should have stepped out of the theater to text. However, the man caused more of a scene than her texting did. What makes people think it is OK to treat people badly?

HOLLY IN KOKOMO

DEAR HOLLY: The same thing that made your sister think it was OK to use her cellphone in a darkened theater. She's lucky that all she got was a lecture because these days many people have short fuses.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Low-cost Chinese comedy sets new box-office record

BEIJING (AP)—A low-budget, domestically produced comedy has unexpectedly become the highest-grossing Chinese film to date. Chinese state media say the wacky road movie "Lost in Thailand" has grossed more than 1 billion yuan (\$160 million) since its Dec. 12 debut. The official Xinhua News Agency, citing an independent monitor of box office figures, said Wednesday that it also beat James Cameron's "Titanic" in 3-D, the most popular foreign film in 2012, in Chinese theaters. Set in Thailand, the film tells the story of two businessmen who go searching for their boss in the north, and then link up with a tourist eager to explore the country. It is filled with slapstick humor and action scenes. The previous record for a domestic film was 726 million yuan set by "Painted Skin 2."

Madonna fan gets probation for resisting arrest

NEW YORK (AP)—A former firefighter with a crush on Madonna has been sentenced to three years' probation for resisting arrest outside the singer's New York City apartment building. Robert Linhart was convicted in November after being twice arrested in September 2010. Police say the then-59-year-old Linhart was nabbed after he parked his SUV outside the Material Girl's former Manhattan apartment and spray-painted love notes on poster boards. He returned a few days later and was arrested again. His attorney had argued that it was no crime to adore Madonna, the singer of pop hits including "Like a Virgin" who performed at last year's Super Bowl halftime game. The judge on Wednesday also ordered Linhart to attend anger management sessions. Attorney Lawrence LaBrew tells the Daily News that Linhart is appealing the conviction.

Jon Stewart to host Grammy's MusiCares tribute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jon Stewart is hosting the MusiCares salute to Bruce Springsteen. The Recording Academy also announced Wednesday that Elton John, Neil Young, Mumford & Sons, Sting, Mavis Staples and Kenny Chesney will be among more than a dozen performers who will help pay tribute to Springsteen during the Feb. 8 benefit concert, held in Los Angeles two days before the Grammy Awards. Springsteen is MusiCare's person of the year, an award given to a performer who is notable both artistically and philanthropically. The sold-out concert will benefit MusiCare's emergency financial assistance and addiction recovery programs. Other performers scheduled to appear include Juanes, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Jackson Browne and Alabama Shakes. Stewart is the host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart."

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6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12 noon or email them to dennys@guam.net

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(2) PAINTER - \$5.75 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Painter. With knowledge how to paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

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(4) ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAFTER - \$6.00 to \$9.00 per hour. Must be a college graduate with minimum experience of 5 years. Must know how to prepare detailed drawings of architectural and structural features of buildings or drawings and topographical relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges, and public works. Use knowledge of building materials, engineering practices, and mathematics to complete drawings. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE - \$5.65 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. With experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical wirings, grounds keeping, and standard practices and use of variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities.

(4) AUTO BODY REPAIRER - \$5.60 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform Arc and Gas welding. Must be able to work flexible time.

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S P O R T S

Heat rally to beat the Mavs in overtime



MIAMI—LeBron James scored 32 points and finished one assist shy of a triple-double, Dwyane Wade scored 27 and the Miami Heat rallied both early and late before beating the Dallas Mavericks 119-109 in overtime on Wednesday night.

Chris Bosh scored 17 points and Ray Allen added 15 for Miami, which extended its Eastern Conference-leading record to 22-8. The Heat trailed by 12 in the opening minutes, and then dug their way out of a six-point hole in the final 3:02 of regulation.

James had 12 rebounds and nine assists for the Heat, who wound up going on what became a 16-3 run late, including 7-0 to start overtime.

O.J. Mayo scored 30 and Dirk Nowitzki—still working his way back from knee surgery—added 19 in 29 minutes for the Mavericks, who fell to 0-6 in overtime this season.

Vince Carter had 15 points, Chris Kaman scored 14 and Darren Collison finished with 11 for the Mavericks.

Nets 110, Thunder 93

In Oklahoma City, Joe Johnson scored a season-high 33 points, Deron Williams added 19 points and 13 assists, and Brooklyn snapped Oklahoma City's 12-game home winning streak in a game featuring the first ejection of Kevin Durant's career.

The Nets squandered a 23-point lead and allowed Oklahoma City to tie it at 85 before ripping off a 23-8 run to seize control right back. Durant was ejected near the end of the surge, arguing with Danny Crawford after the referee had already issued a technical foul against Kendrick Perkins.

Durant scored 27 points and Russell Westbrook had 26 points and 10 assists for Oklahoma City, which lost for only the third time at home this season.

Nets interim coach P.J. Carlesimo got a win against the team that fired him back in 2008.

Warriors 115, Clippers 94

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry scored 25 of his 31 points in the first half, David Lee finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds and Golden State coasted past Los Angeles.

Harrison Barnes had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Curry added eight assists and six rebounds to pace Golden State's 26-8 spurt to start the game. The Warriors handed the Pacific Division-leading Clippers their second loss in two nights after winning a franchise-record 17 straight games.

Jamal Crawford scored 24 points off the bench and Chris Paul had 23 points and six rebounds for the Clippers, play-



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) works against Dallas Mavericks' Rodrigue Beaubois (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013.

ing with heavy hearts after learning of the death of owner Donald Sterling's son earlier in the day. Starting small forward Caron Butler also wasn't with Los Angeles because of personal reasons.

Spurs 117, Bucks 110

In Milwaukee, Tim Duncan had 28 points, 13 rebounds and six assists, and San Antonio used torrid first-half shooting to beat Milwaukee for its seventh consecutive victory.

Tony Parker added 23 points and 11 assists for the Spurs, who shot 52 percent from the field for the game and withstood a second-half rally by the Bucks.

Brandon Jennings paced Milwaukee with 31 points. Bucks rookie John Henson scored a career-high 20 points and added nine rebounds. Mike Dunleavy had 19 points.

Rockets 104, Hornets 92

In Houston, James Harden had 31 points and seven assists to lead Houston over New Orleans.

When he couldn't find a rhythm from beyond the arc, Harden took to the paint, where he scored 16 of his points. Houston outscored New Orleans 60-28 in the paint.

Harden has led the Rockets in scoring for 14 straight games, not including a Dec. 10 loss to San Antonio where he was sidelined with an ankle injury.

Omer Asik had 21 points and eight rebounds, and forward Patrick Patterson scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, adding nine rebounds in the game.

Raptors 102, Trail Blazers 79

In Toronto, Terrence Ross scored a career-high 26 points, DeMar DeRozan had 24 and Toronto snapped an eight-game losing streak against Portland.

Ed Davis had 19 points and Amir Johnson 17 in Toronto's

straight loss overall and fifth in a row at home.

Nelson returned to the lineup after missing two games with a sore hip and scored a season-high 32 points. Nik Vucevic finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Arron Afflalo added 19 points for the Magic.

Kings 97, Cavaliers 94

In Cleveland, Jason Thompson scored 19 points and DeMarcus Cousins added 18, leading Sacramento over Cleveland for its second road win of the season.

John Salmons' 3-pointer from the corner with 52.9 seconds remaining gave Sacramento the lead for good, 92-90. The win broke a seven-game losing streak away from home for the Kings, who are 2-13 on the road and played without injured guards Tyreke Evans and Marcus Thornton, their second and third-leading scorers.

Kyrie Irving scored 22 points to lead Cleveland, which has lost nine of 11 and is 3-11 at Quicken Loans Arena, where it has dropped five straight.

Cavaliers center Anderson Varejao, the league's leading rebounder, missed his seventh straight game with a bruised right knee.

Jazz 106, Timberwolves 84

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 17 points, Enes Kanter had 15 and Utah beat Minnesota to snap a three-game losing streak.

Paul Millsap started 7 of 7 for Utah and finished with 14 points, and Jamaal Tinsley had 12 on 6-of-8 shooting.

Tinsley started in place Mo Williams, who learned earlier in the day he will be out six weeks after opting for surgery on his right thumb.

The game marked the return of Andrei Kirilenko, who played 10 seasons for the Jazz before being allowed to leave via free agency two years ago. He hit his first three shots but finished with just 12 points on 4-of-7 shooting.

Alexey Shved and Kevin Love led Minnesota (14-14) with 13 apiece and Love added 10 rebounds but neither shot well.

Suns 95, 76ers 89

In Phoenix, Luis Scola scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half and Phoenix beat Philadelphia to snap a six-game losing streak.

Goran Dragic added 20, Shannon Brown scored 12, and Marcin Gortat had 11 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns.

Jrue Holiday had 16 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double for the 76ers, who are 2-7 in the second half of back-to-back games. Dorell Wright and Thaddeus Young had 14 points apiece for Philadelphia.

Ray Lewis to retire after playoffs



OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Ray Lewis spent 17 seasons instilling fear in his opponents while serving as an inspirational leader for the Baltimore Ravens.

Now he's poised and eager to become a full-time dad.

Lewis announced Wednesday he will end his brilliant NFL career after the Ravens complete their 2013 playoff run.

Lewis has been sidelined since Oct. 14 with a torn right triceps. The 13-time Pro Bowl middle linebacker intends to return Sunday to face the Indianapolis Colts in what will almost certainly be his final home game.

"Everything that starts has an end," the 37-year-old Lewis said. "For me, today, I told my team that this will be my last ride."

Lewis will walk away from the game because he wants to spend more time with his sons. While working to return from his injury, Lewis watched two of his boys play on the same high school football team in Florida. He intends to see Ray Lewis III perform as a freshman next year for the University of Miami, where the elder Lewis starred before the Ravens selected him in the first round of the 1996 draft.

"God is calling," Lewis said. "My children have made the ultimate sacrifice for their father for 17 years. I don't want to see them do that no more. I've done what I wanted to do in this business, and now it's my turn to give them something back."

That's why Lewis will pull off his No. 52 uniform for the last time after the Ravens lose or claim their second Super Bowl title.

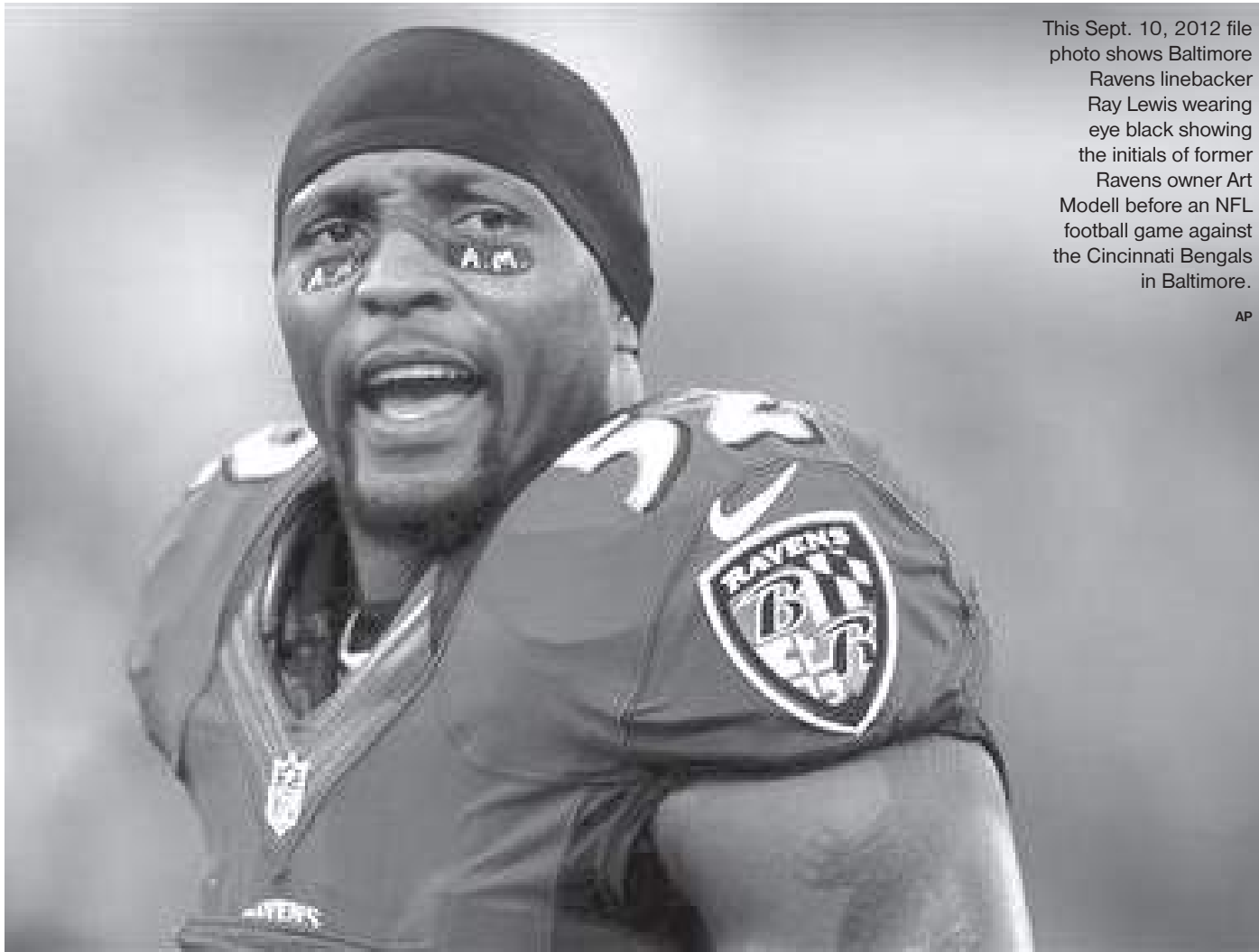
"It's either (that or) hold onto the game and keep playing and let my kids miss out on times we can be spending together," Lewis said. "Because I always promised my son if he got a full ride on scholarship Daddy is going to be there, I can't miss that."

Lewis was the AP Defensive Player of the Year in 2000, the same season he was voted Super Bowl MVP following Baltimore's 34-7 rout of the New York Giants. Lewis was also Defensive Player of the Year in 2003, and is the only player in NFL history with at least 40 career sacks and 30 interceptions.

"I never played the game for individual stats," Lewis said. "I only played the game to make my team a better team."

Lewis has been with the Ravens since they moved from Cleveland. After being drafted 26th overall in Baltimore's first draft, Lewis became a fixture at middle linebacker—and a beloved figure in Baltimore. He remained that way even after his alleged involvement in a double-murder in Atlanta in early 2000.

In June of that year, a judge approved a deal allowing Lewis



This Sept. 10, 2012 file photo shows Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis wearing eye black showing the initials of former Ravens owner Art Modell before an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Baltimore.

AP

definitely what makes him the best linebacker to ever play the game."

Indianapolis standout linebacker Dwight Freeney said, "He's meant a lot to the league in general, but defensive guys especially. This is a league where the most focus goes on offense, quarterbacks and running backs, and very few times do you see a defensive guy get highlighted in commercials or whatever. You see Ray on there, so it's kind of like he's one of us. And you feel good when you see him, the things he's done for the game and how he motivates guys."

Lewis is the key figure in a defense that has long carried a reputation for being fierce, unyielding and downright nasty. He led the Ravens in tackles in 14 of his 17 seasons, the exceptions being those years in which he missed significant time with injuries (2002, 2005, 2012).

Baltimore linebacker Terrell Suggs, who is almost always upbeat, said of the announcement: "It was sad. It affected me, because for the past 10 years of my career I've been sitting right next to the man and going to war on Sundays. It's going to one hard last ride, and we need to make it one to remember."

When Lewis tore his triceps against Dallas, it was feared he was done for the season. But he would have none of that.

"From the time I got hurt, everything I've done up to this point has been to get back with my team to make another run at the Lombardi (Trophy)," he said.

Well, not everything. Lewis spent time watching his boys play football, which caused him to call his rehabilitation "bittersweet." After spending countless hours from Monday through Thursday working to return from the injury, he hopped on a plane toward Florida to be with his boys.

"I got to be there every Friday," Lewis said. "Me being who I am, not having a father myself, that damaged me a lot. I didn't want my kids to relive that."

"One of the hardest things in the world is to walk away from my teammates. But the now I'm going to step into other chapters of my life."

"I knew I couldn't split my time anymore. When God calls, he calls. And he's calling. More importantly, he calls me to be a father. It's OK to be Daddy. Yes, this chapter is closing, but the chapter that's opening is overwhelming. That's what excites me the most."

Lewis could have made the announcement during the off-season.

"I think my fans, my city, I think they deserved for me to just not walk away," he said. "We all get to enjoy what Sunday will feel like, knowing that this will be the last time 52 plays in a uniform in Ravens stadium."

to avoid murder charges and jail time by pleading guilty to a misdemeanor and testifying against two co-defendants. Within a year, Lewis was in the Super Bowl, leading the Ravens to their only NFL championship.

Hundreds of games later, he's ready to call it a career.

"I'll make this last run with this team, and I'll give them everything I've got," he said. "When it ends, it ends. But I

didn't come back for it to end in the first round."

The news of his decision to retire quickly resounded throughout the NFL.

Colts coach Chuck Pagano, who served as Lewis' defensive coordinator last year, said, "I thought, shoot, the guy could play forever and would play forever. Great person, great man, great player, just an unbelievable human being—what he's

done for that organization, that city and for that matter, so many people. He's obviously a first-ballot Hall of Famer and will be sorely missed."

Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy said, "I don't know, at least in my time in the league, if there's been a defensive player that's had as big an impact. ... He's really an incredible example of leader. Talk about somebody opening up his

chest and giving it to his football team."

Lewis was respected by his peers, too, even those who were on the receiving end of his crushing tackles.

"He definitely inspired me," Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson said. "Just the passion and how he is dedicated to his craft to be the best. You don't see too many guys who play like that. That's

Source: Bills to interview Oregon's Chip Kelly

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Oregon coach Chip Kelly won't have much time to rest after the Fiesta Bowl.

On Friday, Kelly has an interview scheduled with the Buffalo Bills for their coaching vacancy, a person familiar with the coach's plans confirmed late Wednesday night.

The interview will take place in Arizona, a day after the fifth-ranked Ducks play Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Bills and Kelly haven't revealed the meeting will take place.

USA Today first reported that Kelly was scheduled to interview with Buffalo.

Bills newly promoted president Russ Brandon and front-office brain trust have been in Arizona since Tuesday conducting their coaching search. According to the Bills' website, the team interviewed Cardinals defensive coordinator Ray Horton on Wednesday, a day after meeting with former Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt, who was fired Monday.

In four years at Oregon, Kelly has a 45-7 record, and is known for his up-tempo offense that has transformed the Ducks into a national power. He is regarded as one of college football's prime candidates for an NFL coaching job this offseason.

Kelly also has been linked as a candidate for the Cleveland Browns and Philadelphia Eagles.

According to several reports, Browns CEO Joe Banner is already in Arizona and also intends to interview Kelly.

Kelly has been deflecting questions about his future all week. He did so again Wednesday when he was asked if he expects to be contacted by NFL teams in the days ahead.

"I don't expect anything," Kelly said. "I said this a million times. I'm never surprised by anything. I do not know what the future holds. I do know we have a football game tomorrow night and I'm going to be there."

The Bills are in the midst of their fifth coaching search since

2001 after Chan Gailey was fired Monday following three consecutive losing seasons.

Though it's unclear how many more candidates they have lined up, the Bills aren't done conducting their search out west after meeting with Kelly.

A second person familiar with Mike McCoy's schedule said the Broncos' offensive coordinator is set to interview with the Bills in Denver this weekend. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Bills have not revealed their list of candidates.

As the AFC's top seed, the Broncos have this weekend off before opening the playoffs the following week. They've allotted time for teams interested in McCoy to interview him in Denver this weekend.

Horton has already interviewed twice with the Cardinals, and once with the Browns, before revealing to reporters at the Cardinals' facility that he was set to meet with the Bills.

"I'm excited about the opportunity here, and the fantastic

interview I had with Cleveland last night, and am going to try to knock Buffalo's socks off," Horton said.

Horton and Whisenhunt not only coached with the Cardinals, but they also previously coached in Pittsburgh.

That makes them both quite familiar with Bills assistant general manager Doug Whaley, who is a member of the team's search committee. Whaley, who is being groomed as GM Buddy Nix's successor, spent nine seasons working as a Steelers scout before joining the Bills three years ago. He is a Pittsburgh native, as well, and played his college ball at Pitt.

Whaley, on Tuesday, spoke highly of both Whisenhunt and Horton.

"We go way back. We've won some Super Bowls together, so I have high regard for their coaching acumen," he said. "I don't think it will make a decision on if they're going to be our coach, but I can shed some insight on how they performed when I was with them and as persons."

Pa. governor sues NCAA over Penn State sanctions



STATE COLLEGE, Pa.
(AP)—Pennsylvania's governor, in a challenge to the NCAA's powers, claimed in a lawsuit Wednesday that college sports' governing body overstepped its authority and "piled on" when it penalized Penn State over the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal.

Gov. Tom Corbett asked that a federal judge throw out the sanctions, which include an unprecedented \$60 million fine and a four-year ban on bowl games, arguing that the measures have harmed students, business owners and others who had nothing to do with Sandusky's crimes.

"A handful of top NCAA officials simply inserted themselves into an issue they had no authority to police under their own bylaws and one that was clearly being handled by the justice system," Corbett said at a news conference.

The case, filed under federal antitrust law, could define just how far the NCAA's authority extends. Up to now, the federal courts have allowed the organization broad powers to protect the integrity of college athletics.

In a statement, the NCAA said the lawsuit has no merit and called it an "affront" to Sandusky's victims.

Penn State said it had no role in the lawsuit. In fact, it agreed not to sue as part of the deal

with the NCAA accepting the sanctions, which were imposed in July after an investigation found that football coach Joe Paterno and other top officials hushed up sexual-abuse allegations against Sandusky, a former member of Paterno's staff, for more than a decade for fear of bad publicity.

The penalties include a cut in the number of football scholarships the university can award and a rewriting of the record books to erase 14 years of victories under Paterno, who was fired when the scandal broke in 2011 and died of lung cancer a short time later.

The lawsuit represents a reversal by the governor. When Penn State's president consented to the sanctions last summer, Corbett, a member of the Board of Trustees, embraced them as part of the university's effort to repair the damage from the scandal.

Corbett said he waited until now to sue over the "harsh penalties" because he wanted to thoroughly research the legal issues and did not want to interfere with the football season.

The deal with the NCAA has been unpopular with many fans, students and alumni. Corbett, who is up for re-election next year, deflected a question about whether his response has helped or hurt him politically.

"We're not going to get into the politics of this," he said.

An alumni group, Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship, applauded the lawsuit but said Corbett should have asked questions when the NCAA agreement was made.

"If he disapproved of the terms of the NCAA consent decree, or if he thought there was something illegal about them, why didn't he exercise his duty to act long before now?" the group said.

Paterno's family members said in a statement that they were encouraged by the lawsuit. Corbett "now realizes, as do many others, that there was an inexcusable rush to judgment,"

they said.

Corbett's lawsuit accuses the NCAA of cynically exploiting the Sandusky case, saying its real motives were to "gain leverage in the court of public opinion, boost the reputation and power of the NCAA's president" and "enhance the competitive position of certain NCAA members." It said the NCAA has not cited a rule that Penn State broke.

Corbett charged that the NCAA violated the Sherman Antitrust Act, which prohibits agreements that restrain interstate commerce. Legal experts called it an unusual case whose

outcome is difficult to predict.

The NCAA has faced antitrust litigation before, with a mixed record of success. In 1984, the Supreme Court ruled against the NCAA's exclusive control over televised college football games. And in 1998, the Supreme Court let stand a ruling that said the NCAA's salary cap for some assistant coaches was unlawful price-fixing.

But federal courts have consistently rejected antitrust challenges to NCAA rules and enforcement actions designed to preserve competitive balance, academic integrity and amateurism in college athletics.

In this case, the courts might not be as sympathetic to the NCAA, said Matthew Mitten, director of the National Sports Law Institute at Marquette University Law School.

"It's difficult to justify the sanctions as necessary to protect the amateur nature of college sports, preserve competitive balance or maintain academic integrity," he said.

Joseph Bauer, an antitrust expert at the University of Notre Dame law school, said of Corbett's line of reasoning: "I don't think it's an easy claim for them to make, but it's certainly a viable claim."

NHL, players' association meet deep into night



NEW YORK
(AP)—The NHL and the players' association met deep

into Wednesday night after the union made its second counteroffer of the week in an effort to end the season-long lockout.

The second round of talks Wednesday began shortly after 8 p.m. EST and was still going three hours later. The sides also met for about an hour during the afternoon when the union first gave its latest proposal to the league.

Neither side said much regarding Wednesday's discussions, but it is believed that the pension issue has become a major stum-

bling block in the negotiations.

Both sides are feeling the pressure of the clock, as the union faced a self-imposed midnight deadline to file a disclaimer of interest. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has said a deal must be reached by Jan. 11 for a season to be played.

The union's proposal Wednesday makes four offers between the sides since the NHL restarted the negotiation process Thursday with a new proposal.

A small group meeting on the pension issue was held Wednesday morning before the players' association presented its offer. A deal can't be done without a resolution on pensions.

The league presented the players with a counteroffer Tuesday night in response to one the union made Monday.

The lockout reached its 109th day Wednesday, and Bettman has said that the league told the union a deal needs to be in place by next week so a 48-game season can begin on Jan. 19.

All games through Jan. 14 along with the All-Star game have been canceled, claiming more than 50 percent of the original schedule.

The players' association had a few more hours to declare a "disclaimer of interest," which would dissolve the union and make it a trade association. That

would allow players to file antitrust lawsuits against the NHL.

If the deadline passes, union members could vote again to authorize their board to file a disclaimer at a later date.

"The players retain their option and it's an internal matter," players' association executive director Donald Fehr said Wednesday.

Fehr believed an agreement on a players-funded pension had been reached before talks blew up in early December. That apparently wasn't the case, or the NHL has changed its offer regarding the pension in exchange for agreeing to other things the union wanted.

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SEDA Summer/Winter Awards Banquet

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Members of B-Fanihi Division champion DJ Fish of Bammy's Restaurant pose with their trophies during the awards banquet of Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Bud Light Summer/Winter Open Dart League held last Dec. 23 at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.



Inter-Government Division winners Department of Public Lands/Sakude III, out of Jonny's Bar & Grill.



B-Flame Tree winners Kyodai of Jonny's.



Master Division runner-up Maharot Crew out of VFW Post 3457.



Ladies Division runner-up Momes'l Mei out of Bammy's.



IT&E's Na Gupu clan, of Naked Fish Bar & Grill, made the podium as runners-up in the B-Fanihi and Tuesday-B fields, in addition to winning the B-Fanihi Bud Light Cup this season.



C Division winners Lupeyt out of Sand's Bar.



A Division winners Outlawz of SOS Bar & Grill.



Tuesday B-League winner Triple Threat, out of Oceanside Bar & Grill.

SPORTS TSL Activity Schedule for Friday, Jan. 4, 2013

Kanoa Resort Women's Christmas Basketball Tournament		
Semifinals 5:30PM 1st Seeding vs. 4th Seeding 7:00PM 2nd Seeding vs. 3rd Seeding		
U12 Coed Christmas Futsal Tournament		
Semifinals 5:30PM 1st Seeding vs. 4th Seeding 6:15PM 2nd Seeding vs. 3rd Seeding		



Heat rally
to beat the
Mavs in
overtime
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Ray Lewis
to retire
after
playoffs
PAGE 28

32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2nd Aussie tourney awaits junior players



Christian Miller, Tammy Ackerman, Negahr Rastguiy, and Mikayla Lopez will make a stop in Victoria, Australia for their second and final tournament in the Land Down Under.

The four CNMI junior tennis players are entered in the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships, which will run from Jan. 9 to 13 at the Wodonga Tennis Centre. Miller and company are currently in Albury, New South Wales awaiting their opening matches both in the singles and doubles events in the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup that will start today and end on Monday.

In Victoria, Miller is among the 70 players joining the AMT (Australian Money Tournaments) men's singles and is likely to compete in the qualifying draw first to make it the 32-player main draw. He will also join the AMT doubles with partner Nicholas Lesterie. AMT, according to Tennis Australia's website, are semi-pro tournaments designed to assist with the junior to senior transition.

Miller will be competing in the Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships for the second straight time after posting an even 3-3 record in the same event last year. He swept his two qualifying matches in 2012, beating Beau Fleming, 7-5, 6-2, and Lachlan Skinner, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, before dropping his opening game in the main draw against Damien Minguez, 4-6, 2-6. Miller also fell to Bernard Richter in the consolation draw, 3-6, 3-6.

In the doubles, Miller and teammate Teba Tito of Kiribati won over Trafford McCrory and Skinner, 6-3, 3-6, 14-12. The Pacific Oceania tandem then lost to Reegan Brown and Tyson Daly in the second round, 5-7, 5-7.

Counting Miller's record in Victoria and the results of his
See 2ND AUSSIE on Page 30

Mikayla Lopez, seen here during the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships, and three other CNMI junior players will be competing in the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Victoria, Australia next week.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fake Madrid tops Spencer United



Sun Joon Tenorio powered Fake Madrid to a 7-3 win over Spencer United at the resumption of the SSS U12 Co-ed Christmas Futsal Tournament last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Tenorio drilled five goals in

Fake Madrid's fourth win in five games, helping his squad stay on top of the four-team field. Spencer United is still winless after five matches despite a gallant stand against Fake Madrid in the first half.

The first 15 minutes of the
See FAKE on Page 30



Fake Madrid's Sun Joon Tenorio, right, avoids contact with Spencer United's Joel Gonzales as they battle for possession during the first half of their game in the U12 co-ed futsal league last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

26 teams sign up for '13 season

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc.'s 2013 field of teams feature 26 squads over four divisions heading into opening day slated for Feb. 9 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The opening ceremony is

scheduled to take place at 5:30pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield followed by an evening matchup to close the event.

This year's participants include 11 Major division teams, five Junior League groups, five Senior League teams, and five Big League squads.

The Major division is made
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Team Go So Hard sweeps Team Four



Team Go So Hard completed its domination of Team Four after notching a 45-35 victory in their third round game in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win gave Team Go So Hard a 3-0 record against Team Four, as the former also won in their first two meetings, 44-37 (Dec. 23) and 53-43 (Dec. 28). Overall, Team Go So Hard holds a 4-4 slate and recorded its first winning streak (two in a row) after an up-and-down performance in the first two rounds of the four-team tournament.

Team Four fell to a 2-6 record, as it played without key player Jeralyn Castillo in the first three quarters. Castillo missed the first 30 minutes of



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team Go So Hard (in blue top) and Team Four players fight for the loose ball during the third quarter of their game in the Kanoa holiday caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

the match as she was coaching the Spencer United in a U12 futsal league. She joined Team Four in the fourth, but even her 8 successive points were not enough to overhaul Team Go So Hard's big lead.

Team Go So Hard built a 33-17 advantage after the third period and preserved the double-digit winning margin with Jan Travilla hitting timely baskets in the fourth canto. Travilla dropped 8 of her game-high 24 markers in the final canto.

The lanky Team Go So Hard forward hit her target early, making 6 points in the opening canto and lifting her squad to a 14-2 lead. Team Four faced an early twin-digit deficit, as it was held scoreless in the first six minutes before Reylyn Sapong ended the spell with an under-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Natibu Sports Association-Tanapag Falcons player makes a throw to the plate during last year's Major Division championship game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelnan Ballfield.